PROPOSALS

HUMBLY PRESENTED

To his Highneſs OLIVER

Lord Protector of *England*, *&c.* and to the High Court of *Parlament*, now aſſembled;

For the calling to a true and juſt Accompt all Committee-men, Sequeſtrators, Treaſurers, Excize and Cuſtom-Commiſsioners, Collectors of Monethly Aſſeſſments, and all other Perſons that have been entruſted with the Publick Revenue; or have in their Cuſtody any thing of value appertaining to the Commonwealth.

WITH

Several Reaſons for the Doing thereof, and the Waies how it may bee exactly done, and ſeveral Preſidents by Acts of Parlalament for the due and ſtrict execution of the ſame; for the Honor of God, *and Eaſe of the good* People *of this Nation in general in their Taxes.*

ALSO,

For the Regulating of the Manufacture of Gold and Silver Thread and Wyer; and for the paſsing an Act againſt Tranſporting Gold and Silver, and againſt Melting down the Currant Silver Monies of the Nation.

LIKEWISE,

A Narrative of the Proceedings in the Court of Admiraltie *againſt the Silver-Ships,* Sampſon, Salvador, *and* George.

By THO. VIOLET of *London* Goldſmith.

Prov. 11. 10. When it goeth well with the Righteous, the City rejoiceth; And when the Wicked periſh, there is ſhouting.

Joſh. 7. 19, 20, 21. *Luke* 16. 1, 2.

LONDON,
Printed *Anno Domini* M. DC. LVI.

ANGLIÆ
RESPVB.

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PROPOSALS

To His Highneſs
OLIVER
LORD PROTECTOR
OF
England, Scotland & Ireland,
and the Dominions thereunto belonging.

May it pleaſe Your Highneſs!

AMongſt the *Roman* Emperors, the name *Pater Patriæ* was held their higheſt title of Honor; and the ſureſt ſupport of all good Princes, hath been the Peoples hearts: For where the *Tongue*-ſtring, and not the *Heart*-ſtring make's the muſick, the harmony may, and doth many times, end in diſcord.

Queen *ELIZABETH* (that glorious Queen, and England's *Deborah*) uſed

to ſay, *Give mee my People's hearts, and wee ſhall not need to ask their purſes*: and this Maxime never deceived her. With what eaſ ſhee got aids from the Nation in Parlament, the Records of her Reign ſhew: The chief point that made the People ſo free to grant in thoſe daies, was, they knew by forty four years. experience, ſhee was ſparing and frugal her ſelf, and God bleſſed her with a wiſe and prudent Counſel: And in point of managing her Revenue, That ſhee never forgave her Accomptants or Receivers of her publick Revenues, where it was poſsible to bee levyed. The State had had millions of money now in bank, had they followed her Rules to take a ſtrickt accompt of all their Receivers. The monies belonging to her Crown. (as I humbly ſaid) was never forgiven: Inſomuch as ſom of her greateſt Servants and Favorites dying in her debt, ſhee would not diſcharge their Heirs or Executors, but held their Lands under extent, till ſhee was paid the uttermoſt farthing; ſaying, *Shee would not forgive any Officer that was an accomptant; for the publick monies was not hers to give.* And the Earl of *Leiceſter*, Secretary *Walſingham*, and Lord Chancellor *Hatton* (for all their being great Pillars in the Common-wealth, and greatly in her favor) having gotten to bee in her debt,

debt, their ſeveral Lands were held under extent, after their deaths, till every penny was paid her: Though ſom of their Heirs petitioned, yet they were forced to pay the uttermoſt farthing, receiving this anſwer from the Queen, *That if the People ſhould know that ſhee prodigally gave away the publick Treaſure, they might juſtly denie her when ſhee had occaſion in Parlament, or otherwaies.* An excellent Rule, at this time, and at all times, for all ſovereign Princes to follow.

May it pleaſ Your *HIGHNESS*; About the *Spaniſh* Invaſion in 88, Queen *Elizabeth* borrowed of the Merchant Adventurers about One hundred thouſand pound, and kept that money by her for above one year, and paid it exactly at the day, with intereſt, after 10 *per cent.* though ſhee made not any uſe of one penny of it, but put it in bank with the reſt of her Treaſure. This ſhee did out of her fore-caſt and providence, that ſo if the Spaniards had landed, ſhee would not then bee to ſeek for Treaſure, for to pay her Souldiers and ſupply her occaſions. Her wiſe, rich and provident Grandfather *Henry* the 7th, ſhee reading his Life and Reign, could teach her that Rule, never to let her Exchequer bee empty; hee leaving (as is recorded) in *Richmond* Houſ,

Seventeen hundred thouſand pound in gold; which is now by computation, according to the preſent value, neer five millions. By theſe courſes that glorious Queen got ſuch reputation, for good husbanding and prudent managing her Revenues; and principally, by her juſt repayment, and by her ſparing the publick Treaſure, that in many of her Parlaments, the ſubſidies and fifteens granted, were intreated and preſſed on her, as a benevolence and free-will offering of the People to her, with many expreſsions of thanks from the Parlament for her good and gracious Government: And ſomtimes their voluntary bounty hath been ſuch, that the Parlament hath granted more than ſhee would accept; and the Queen hath, with thanks, her ſelf in Parlament, returned Subſidies again. Her Fame extending beyond *Solomon's*, even to the fartheſt and greateſt Monarchs in the world. The Grand *Seigniour* ſending his Imperial ſalutes, and deſiring her Peace and Amitie with Commerce and Trade. And the Emperor of *Ruſsia*, admiring her great Valor, in offering to affront and aſſault and begin a Warr with the King of *Spain*, at her deſire, did grant to the *Engliſh* Merchants, for the reſpects hee bore to their glorious Queen

Elizabeth,

Eligabeth, many great Privileges and Immunities in his Empire for Him and his Successors for ever; which were inviolably observed by his Successors, till about the year 1650. Shee usually said, *Shee desired that her Subjects Purses should bee her Exchequer.* For, as long as they were rich, shee could not bee poor: These Princelie and Popular Expressions took so with all her Subjects, (rich and poor) that shee never stirred out of the Court, but shee had the Acclamations, Praiers and Praises of Thousands of her People, both in City and Country: And shee would shew the like tenderness and affection to her People. And this Blessing God bestowed then on this Nation, that *Prince* and *People* were of one Minde, one Heart, and one Faith, (except som few Catholicks). Her watchfull eie was ever over them; and that strengthened, by God's blessing, her hands, that in her time shee did such great things: in her greatest Difficulties, her Affairs were carried smoothly on by the prudence of her Counsel. If Grievances were by the Commons in Parlament presented unto her, it was in such a decent form, (shee alwaies keeping the dignity of her State Imperial) that the People's Grievances appeared unto her like the

tears of the Turtle and the mourning of Doves. Som of the Representations of their Grievances in Parlament, I have seen and read to this effect, That if there was any thing expressed otherwise then they should have represented, That her Majestie would cast the vail of her Grace upon it, and give a favorable and benign Answer and Interpretation of their humble Petition. And surely, (next to God's gracious protection) her Safetie was built, as *Solomon*'s Throne was, shee was supported by XIII. Lyons, a grave and prudent Counsel; the number of her inward Privy Counsellors not much exceeding that number: By her prosperous Conduct and Management of her Affairs, all Christendom esteemed *England* to have a glorious Prince, a wise Counsel of State, and the People happy in general.

I have read, that my Lord Chancellor *Bacon*, in a Speech of his in Parlament, had this saying, *Sure I am* (saith that golden mouthed Orator) *that the Treasure that cometh from the Commons to her Majestie, is but as a vapor which ariseth from the Earth, and gathereth into a Cloud, and stayeth not there long, but upon the same Earth falleth down again; And if som few drops fall upon* France *and the* United Provinces, *it is as a sweet odor of Ho-*

nor

nor and Reputation to the English *Nation throughout the World.* Elegantly expressing the relief that the *English* afforded both to *France* and the *Low-Countries* against their then common Enemy the *Spaniard.*

In her glorious Reign, the Counsells that were then in Parlament, tended ever to the individual prosperitie, and the safety and preservation both of the Queen and People; And like *Christ's* coat, without seam, all their Counsels were of one piece, the equal prosperitie of both. And after 44 years reign, this glorious Queen dyed, rich in Jewells, rich in Money and Plate, the Lands of the Crown; and, above all, rich in the Love and Estimation of her Loyal People, after shee had contended with the King of *Spain*, by invading him in *Spain*, in *Portugal*, in the *Indies*, firing and burning his Ships and Carrakes in our narrow Seas; and made her Commanders so terrible on the Spanish coasts, that the children when they cryed, their parents would fright them with *garda el Draco*; which is, Bee quiet, have a care, here is *Drake*. I pray God, and hope to see the same fear fall on them by the Virtue and Valor of Your HIGHNESS's Admiral *Blake*, not onely to fright their Children, but their Natives, when they are

men, making them to cry *garda el Blaco*, as well as their Fathers said *garda el Draco*. This great Quarrel at the first was undertaken by the Queen, for the relief of the miserable poor distressed *Dutch* Protestants, the States of the United Provinces in the Low Countries, (they had no other title in her Reign). I hope they will for ever acknowledg the Curtesies of English mens blood and money, that hath made them now the *High* and *Mighty Lords the States*, and a free State; I wish it bee not now in their Greatness blotted out of their remembrance.

Queen *Elizabeth*'s Warrs in *Ireland* were very expensive; and also her Relieving of *France* both with Men and Money. And at the foot of the accompt, for all these great undertakings, to leav her Successor her Kingdoms in great wealth, peace, honor, and safety, and her People happy, make's up the miracle.

Towards the setting of this glorious STAR, som sons of *Belial* laid the foundation of the *Hellish Powder Plot*, and at latter end of her glorious Reign, the *Anabaptists* and *Sectaries* begin (like Snakes) to engender; but her Successor King *James*, by his prudence, shook them off, as S. *Paul*

did

did the Viper, by ſeveral waies and means: *Firſt*, as the Phyſition, let's ſom blood out of the bodie to preſerv the whole: *Secondly*, as Sea-faring men in a ſtorm, caſt's ſom goods over board to ſave the *Cargaſaon*: *Thirdly*, as a good Husbandman, that will afford ſom feet of ground for hedging and and ditching to fortifie and ſecure the reſt: *Fourthly*, as a good Gardiner, that would have his garden plants grow, pluck's up the weeds by the roots: So King *James* uſed all theſe Remedies to the Sectaries, ſom of their mouths hee ſtopped with preferment; ſom hee committed to the rigor of the Law, which coſt them their lives; others to Priſon. And after the Diſpute at *Hampton*-Court, hee put down his peremptory reſolution by Proclamation, (which I humbly call his hedg, to keep out the little Foxes that ſpoil the Vineyard of the Church) Requiring a conformity to the ſame by all Perſons upon ſtrickt penalties; which proved a good temporary Remedy.

May it pleaſ Your HIGHNESS to read but one touch more of the ſplendor and glory of this great Queen *Elizabeth*; ſhee was not without her Eclipſes with troubles and fears many waies (to ſhew the uncertainty of worldly glory) even from

her neareſt Kinſwoman *Mary* Queen of *Scots*; who, while ſhee was Queen of *France*, by her Husband's perſwaſion, took upon her the ſtile and title of Queen of *England*; from which ſprung all her troubles in *Scotland*, when ſhee returned a widow out of *France* (and this was done by Queen *Elizabeth* and her Counſel's inſtigation): Theſe troubles, by her Scotch Rebels, drove the Scotch Queen into *England*, whither ſhee fled for refuge; but it proved otherwiſe: for, upon that ſcore, ſhee was catch't in the net of death; and ſo much the ſooner, by reaſon of her impatience not brooking the delayes of her Deliverance; which thruſt her head-long into ſo many Treaſons, that Queen *Elizabeth* could not let her live, and bee in ſafety her ſelf; for Queen *Elizabeth* was often times heard to ſay, *Either ſtrike, or bee ſtricken*: and ſo ſhee ſtruck firſt, and cut off her head; and by that means removed her Capital Enemy, (It is a certain truth, *It is a dangerous thing for a ſupreme Magiſtrate to have the patience to ſtay to bee firſt ſtriken*) but to put an end to thoſe plots which were daily plotting and hatching againſt her Crown and Dignity; for the Queen of *Scots* had real plots for both, having found in her Study the Keys of above fifty ſeveral

ral Characters for ſeveral people ſhee held Intelligence with, both Forain and Engliſh Traitors. Queen *Elizabeth*'s grave and wiſe Counſell would not let her play an after game. They had the Queen of *Scots* tryed by a Jury of Engliſh Noblemen, many of them being Catholicks, & her own friends and neereſt relations; and had they not found her guilty, many of their heads had gone off: for which very reaſon, many that the Scotch Queen took to bee her friends, were her greateſt enemies. But doing that buſineſs ſo effectually, the Queen wincked at many Noblemen; for many of her Jury that had been hatching and acting with her, Queen *Elizabeth* buried their faults in oblivion. But *Abington* and *Babington* ſcaped not ſo well, being both hanged, drawn and quartered, and their Eſtates annexed to the Crown. There were others (as *Somervill*, *Parry*, *Savage*, and many more) that ſought this glorious *Queen*'s death, but ſhee vvas ſtill protected by the Watchman vvhich ſlumbereth not; and dyed glorioufly, and in peace.

May it pleaſ Your HIGHNESS; vvhen King *James* came to the Crovvn, a *Powder Plot* vvas laid for him, his Vine and Olive-branches being to bee about

him, attended by his Nobles and third Eſtate in Parlament, who were all deſigned in the twinckling of an eie to have been brought to aſhes, and diſperſed by the four Winds: the helliſhneſs of that Treaſon is beyond the expreſsion of vvords.

That many Treaſons have been plotted in other Countries, and on other Princes as vvell as ours; to Catholicks as well as to Proteſtants, and have taken effect: They were but plotted with us, but by God's providence prevented; beyond Sea really acted, witneſs the two great Kings of *France*, (*Henry* the Third and *Henry* the Fourth) one ſtabbed before *Paris*, in the face of his Army; and the other King, by a raſcally Votary, a fellow conjured into the ſpirit of a *Quaker* (by ſuch a baſe hand died *Henry* the great King of *France* in the ſtreets of *Paris*) and the Prince of *Orange* murthered in *Holland*, being a Proteſtant Prince, by the ſame kinde of villanous hands. Theſe perils are common in all ages, to good Princes and bad Princes, Proteſtants and Catholicks. And ſeeing theſe daily practices are and have been by God's permiſsion ſuffered to bee done, what manner of men ought all Princes and ſupream Magiſtrates to bee, conſidering (more than

other

other men) they may have their glory extinguished in a moment, and that by base and unworthy hands.

Som men (in all ages) being possessed and instigated by the power of the Divel, who possesseth them, and put's into their mindes, that a private man may by a dagger or pistol judg and execute a Prince, if they conceiv him a Tyrant: And these delusions many times prevail vvith these incarnate Divels, whereby they act Tragedies, and shake vvhole Nations; and thus do supream Magistrates too frequently becom (by these ill-principl'd Miscreants) upon the matter, but meer Tennants at will of their Lives and Dignities.

May it pleas Your HIGHNESS; there is a *Pestilent Plague* that reigns amongst us, which (I humbly say) ought by the pruning-knife of the Law to bee lopped off from the vvholsom Tree of this flourishing Common-vvealth; and that is the Treasonable *Libeller*, vvhich of late hath increased openly every week, producing daily monstrous births of Villany against the State. Great SIR! I humbly say, That these things ought not to bee despised, but rather lookt into; for every *Libel* is a knock at a carefull Magistrate's door, to awaken

and cauſ him to ſtand upon his Guard; eſpecially in ſuch Times as theſe, when many men's brains are apt (being like Touch-vvood) to take fire with the leaſt ſpark of Sedition. And therefore, even as the Plague and ſundry other filthy diſeaſes are obnoxious and troubleſom to both the minde and body; ſo are all ſcurrilous Verſes and libellous Pamphlets, with their divelliſh Authors, in a higher degree more infectious and hurtfull to both Church and Common-vvealth. (Now all diligence ſhould bee uſed to bring the Offenders to Juſtice, and by that means to terrifie others.) I have ſeen ſom queſtioned, but I did never ſee exemplary Juſtice done upon the Offenders, for theſe many years by-paſt: Som Juries in this Nation will not believ the ill Conſequence of this fire, till (without God's great mercie) all will bee in a flame; for one Villain may bring a Plague into a City, as well as an Army; and one Conſpirator, or one Libeller, one *Naples Maſſanello*, againſt a Prince or State, may bee like a Thunderbolt that ſtrike's upon the ſudden, and can hardly bee diſcerned, there is no defence nor preparation againſt them; one *Felton* in a moment extinguiſhed the Greatneſs of a Duke of *Buckingham*. & and [illegible] the Majeſty of King Charles the firſt. May

May it pleaſ Your HIGHNESS; amongſt juſt Princes (in the deadlieſt warr) aſſaſsinators and poiſoners of Princes have ever been accounted execrable; and the Actors and Plotters to bee taken off from the face of the earth. And for all theſe new Doctrines abroad within this Nation, all true Subjects, without diſtinction or degree, (I moſt humbly conceiv) owe faith and ſervice to the ſupream Magiſtrate, which give's them protection: And it is Treaſon for any Subject in this Nation, of what degree ſoever (I humbly conceiv) to bee privy to any forain Invaſion, Rebellion, or Sedition, or any private Practices, to alienate and eſtrange men's hearts againſt the State, and ſo prepare them to burſt out into Tumults and Commotions in theſe dangerous Times.

Moſt humbly I ſhall conclude, That as Your HIGHNESS (by Divine Providence) hath gotten the Supremacy of Power, and to bee *Protector* of theſe Nations (ſo it is ballanced with the ſupremacy of Cares); You muſt watch, when others ſleep; for Your aſcent to Greatneſs hath brought on You a great proportion of cares and troubles. *And thoſe men, whomſoever they bee, that look to gather their fruits, and live*

under the shadow of Your Protection, and would bee partakers of the beneficial Advantages, which daily must descend from Your HIGHNESS, *beeing the Supream Magistrate; if they will not, in requital of Your Protection, bee true and faithfull to Your* HIGHNESS *and the Common-wealth, Such men (I humbly say) let them pretend what Religion they pleas, (without God's infinite mercy) may bring, both upon themselvs and the Nation in general, great mischiefs, to the destruction both of themselvs and many other particular persons.*

May it pleas Your HIGHNESS; Queen *Elizabeth* and her prudent Counsel would never stay to bee first strucken, either by a Forain Prince, or home Rebel; when shee saw there was just occasion, shee would alwaies bee before-hand with them: by which her Vigilancy, shee kept her Self and People in safety, being much feared by her Enemies, and honored and admired both at home and abroad by all her Friends.

May it pleas Your HIGHNESS; I most humbly desire Your gracious perusal of these my humble following Proposals, for calling the Accomptants of this Nation in general to accompt; and of Your Princely Benignitie, to vouchsafe to pardon what You in Your great Wisedom shall see in this

this Book amiſs; if it bee my error, it is an error of the right hand, and flow's from a Loial heart, out of my humble zeal and affection of your *Highneſs* Safety, Honor, Peace and Wealth, and for the good and eaſe of the Nation in general of ſome of their Taxes, by calling ſome unjuſt Stewards, Committeemen, and Treaſurers to accompt, according to the Lawes of the Nation;) and that your *Highneſs* and the *Parlament* would be pleaſed to make ſuch Orders, Ordinances and Rules for the due and juſt making of Gold and Silver Thread, VVyer, Purle, Spangles, *&c.* that the former Deceipts and Frauds, (daily practiſed and put upon the Nation) may bee prevented; And that an Act may bee made againſt all perſons that have or ſhall hereafter cull and melt down the currant Coynes of the Nation, for the making of any of the aforeſaid Manufactures, or for any uſe whatſoëver: And that an Act againſt Tranſporters of Gold and Silver out of this Nation may bee forthwith paſſed, to prevent theſe great miſchiefs to the Common-wealth, which daily ariſe through the Covetouſneſs of particular perſons, to the great dammage, weakning and impoveriſhing of the Nation in general. The long Parlament hath particularly excepted all theſe offences concerning the Coyn and Bul-

lion out of the general Pardon, in *Anno* 1651. and all the Offenders are at this day liable to bee ſeverely puniſhed. There is the draught of an Act of Parlament againſt all theſe Offences and Offenders, twice read in the Houſe and amended, and appointed by the Houſe to bee reported by Mr *Auguſtine Garland* in the month of *April* 1653. VVhich Act, if once finiſhed (as it is now drawn) doth appoint Commiſsioners to examine and finde out both the Offences and Offenders, according to former Preſidents in Parlament.

And upon the effectual proſecution (I humbly ſay) the Offenders may finde the old Proverb true, that *Sweet meat muſt have ſowr ſawce: Their exemplary puniſhment will terrifie others for the future from practiſing ſuch miſchiefs againſt the Common-wealth.*

I have humbly preſented to your *Highneſs* a further *Narrative* of my proſecution againſt the Silver ſhips *Sampſon*, *Salvador* and *George* in the Court of Admiraltie. The ſeveral witneſſes (beeing many of them Paſſengers in theſe ſhips) confeſs the Silver and Lading was conſigned for *Amſterdam*; And many other remarkable Proceedings, for to vindicate the Honor and juſt Proceedings of the then Counſell of State and Parlament, who ſtayed thoſe Ships and Silver, as *Hollan-*

ders Silver and merchandize, ſhips and goods, only upon your Supplicants information and proſecution againſt them. The *Hamburgers*, *Spaniards* and *Lubeckers* had their ſhips and goods reſtored by the Judges of the Court of Admiraltie.

May it pleaſ Your HIGHNESS; I had more trouble to intitle the State to this Silver in theſe ſhips, and to diſprove the *Spaniſh* Ambaſſadors Claim to this Silver, then I ſhall have to finde out the frauds of the Accomptants of this Nation: And if I bee impowered to bee your *Highneſs*'s Remembrancer, and to have an inſpection into the Accompts of this Nation, (by the aſsiſtance of God, if your *Highneſs* and the *Parlament* will ſtrictly and effectually proceed in this Buſineſs) it will bring your *Highneſs* in millions of money, for the eaſe of the good People of the Nation in general.

God defend, the Commons of this Nation ſhould pay their Taxes and Aſſeſsments to particular perſons, who ſhall not give a juſt accompt to the Common-wealth, according to the Lawes and Statutes of this Nation. All good people (I moſt humbly ſay) ought to part with ſome part of their Fleece for the Safety of the Nation, when it is legally aſſeſſed, and juſtly and truly accompted

for; but not to pay their monies to private Treaſurers and Committee-men: that by theſe Imploiments, many of them have gotten vaſt poſſeſsions from the bottom of beggerie and baſeneſs, by fraud, diſsimulation and Cozenage.

May it pleaſ Your HIGHNESS; Theſe men have not moderately ſhorn the Sheep of theſe Nations, but they have rent and torn their pelts and skins from them, and they ought (I moſt humbly ſay) to pay for the mending of them; and to ſerve ſome of theſe men as *Dudley* and *Emſon* were ſerved in King *Henry* the Eighth's time, would bee a pleaſing ſight, and acceptable to the good People of the Nation.

My moſt humble Suit to your *Highneſs* is, That none of the Accomptants of the Nation may eſcape in the croud, from giving up a juſt, true and perfect accompt; and that Commiſsioners and Auditors, of approved integritie and truſt to your *Highneſs*, may bee impowered to view and inſpect into all Orders and Warrants that have or ſhall bee produced by any Treaſurer or Accomptant, for all ſumms of money they pretend for their diſcharge; and where any VVarrant hath been pretendedly or really paid, and not legally impowered

for

for the payment of any ſumm of money; all ſuch VVarrants may bee ſuſpended, for the view and inſpection of your *Highneſs*'s Commiſsioners of the Revenue, or ſuch other honorable perſons your *Highneſs* ſhall appoint for that ſervice: And every Treaſurer and Accomptant of this Nation, his Body, Goods and Lands, his Heirs and Executors, to bee liable till they have duly accompted, according to the Lawes of the Nation, or obteined your *Highneſs* gratious Pardon and Diſcharge.

May it pleaſ Your HIGHNESS; Thus farr I proceeded in this my moſt humble *Epiſtle*, at the firſt day this Parlament ſate, being *Sept.* 17. and your Supplicant beeing reſolved to wait ſome time, to ſee how God would diſpoſe of the Counſels of your *Highneſs* Supream Court, I did for ſome daies acquieſs in this Buſineſs.

May it pleaſ Your HIGHNESS; It is a reverent Tradition and Priviledg granted to the Members of the high Court of Parlament, that many things may bee ſpoken by the Members of the high Court of Parlament within the Houſe, which are not communicable abroad, and puniſhable for themſelvs to ſpeak out of that Place. There are ſome things which God doth many

times put into a mans heart, (which is no Member of Parlament, but an humble loial Subject) which are for the good and benefit of the Nation, which one man knoweth; and peradventure another man that is farr wiſer and more learned than hee, doth not know.

May it pleaſ Your *Highneſs*; In a ſhip, an ordinary Boy thereof is aſmuch bound to diſcover a Leak or a Conſpiracie in the ſaid ſhip, as the Boſon or Pilat, and hath as good intereſt to do it, becauſe his life is endangered in the concealing of it; and a poor mans life may bee as precious to himſelf as a rich mans: the ſame thing ought every man to doe, that is a faithfull Subject on Land, in any Nation where hee hath protection, and much more his Countrey, for preventing all Conſpiracies to his power; and if hee make a Diſcovery of what the Supreme Magiſtrate knows before, hee may therein ſhew want of Judgment, but not want of dutie or affection to the Supreme Magiſtrate or Government where hee liveth.

I humbly ſay, That man ſinneth againſt God aud his Conſcience, if it bee for the honor of God, the good of the Nation, and the ſafetie of the Supreme Magiſtrate,

ſtrate, if hee do not diſcover it: (and all men formerly were bound by their Oaths of Allegiance and Supremacie to bee true to the King.)

For hee that hides and conceals that which God would have revealed, puts Gods light under a Buſhel; moſt eſpecially, if it bee incumbent upon a mans ſpirits, and ſuch notions dictated unto him by the ſpirit of God, which hee never had before for the doing it; and upon reſiſting that ſpirit, may never have hereafter.

This beeing my preſent condition, upon my knees I beſeech your *Highneſs* to be graciouſly pleaſed to grant your favorable peruſal of this Epiſtle and Book, beeing far larger then at firſt I intended, proceeding from a moſt humble, dutifull and loial heart, for your *Highneſs* Securitie, Peace, Honor and Safety.

Had Cæſar *peruſed what was writ to him before hee went into the Capitol, hee had not died as hee did. The Duke of* Guyſe *in* France, *and many others (in all ages) that have ſleighted information and intelligence, have had the ſame ſad fate.*

Great SIR, I moſt humbly ſay, your *Highneſs* having (by Gods gracious and favorable aſsiſtance) taken on You the Go-

vernment of beeing *PROTECTOR* of *England*, *Scotland* and *Ireland*, and the Dominions thereunto belonging, You ought and are bound (both before God and to theſe Nations) to the uttermoſt of your power to give Protection and equal Juſtice to all the good people of theſe Nations, that are willing to live under your Protection, and to defend them with all your might & ſtrength, and to uſe the power God hath put into your hands for thoſe ends, to keep your People in peace and ſafetie againſt all factious ſpirits.

In purſuance thereof, You are (aſmuch as in you lieth) to keep from power or publick Imploiment all ſuch as You and your Counſel ſhall know to bee publick or ſecret undermining Enemies of the peace & welfare of this Common-wealth, by what pretences, titles or callings ſoëver, whether Civil, Militarie or Eccleſiaſtical. You and your great Counſell (upon my bended knees I ſay) are to have a ſpecial care of ſome men, who, under the pretence of the Priviledges and Rights of the people in Parlament, would (upon that popular ſcore) vent their own diſcontents, and put all again into a confuſion: with what ſpirits ſome old Members came to ſerve the Nation in this

Parlament,

Parlament, was visibly seen to all men that wished the peace of this Nation, in some Counties upon their election, and in their ordinary conversation and deportment: The scope and drift of some mens designes was to make division and faction between the *Parlament* and your *Highness*, between the *City* and your *Highness*, and put all things into a confusion this present day, to make way for the publick Enemies of your *Highness* and this Nation. This was by some particular persons (no doubt) intended (and all men that studie and love the peace of their Countrey might see it) under such cunning undermining questions, as was by some discontented spirits set on foot the last Parlament, craftily to undermine the very Body and Beeing of the Government, and sliely to strike at both your *Highness* and your Posterities Life, Fame and Fortunes, and to pluck up by the roots your *Highness* Counsel and the established Government, which your *Highness* (by the Advice of your Counsel had setled); witness, the many Libells of all sorts and tempers, to stir up commotions in several Parts and Parties, the Ingredients beeing prepared for all Interests to incense and infuse a hatred and detestation of the present Government, and (with-

out Gods mercie) the intentions of ſom would have before this time burſt out into tumults and inſurrections: my hopes and praiers are, that God, by your *Highneſs* proſperous government, hath prepared better things for this Nation.

That ſome factious Cocks, which crew ſo loud in the Countrey, now they are kept out of the Pit, may return home to their Houſes, Countrey Capons, and ſleep quietly in their rooſts; it will bee a happineſs both to themſelvs, their Countrey, their Wives and Children, their Friends, Tennants, Servants and Neighbors (if they do ſo); and their not doing of it, may bring diſturbance on the Nation, and a certain ruine upon thamſelvs, their Wives and Children. It is an old trick, Divide and Rule: and many that have had the power, will leave no ſtone unturned to get again into play; ſo they laugh, they care not if the whole Nation cries.

There are many good People who have been miſled, upon the notion of Libertie and Freedom; And if your HIGHNESS and your Supreme Counſel (the Parlament) do not give a ſtop by your power and vigilancie, even at this juncture of time (without Gods mercie) things may run into great Diſorders.

Therefore your HIGHNESS and the

Parlament (I moſt humbly upon my knees ſay) muſt build the walls of our *Jeruſalem* (*England, Scotland* and *Ireland,* and the Dominions thereunto belonging) as *Nehemiah* did that of the Jews. Your *Highneſs* and the Parlament have many *Samballats* that envies your Building and ſcorns your Reformation; there are many of the Children of Separation and Diviſion in theſe Lands.

When a wiſe man would keep his Houſe from falling, (that is rent & ſhaken with great tempeſts,) he props it up with timber, cramps it with Iron bolts and barrs; and, it may be, upon the propping of it to ſet it upright, cracks the ſeiling and fret-work of the beſt and ſtatelieſt room in his Houſe; ſurely if either the Wife or the Children or the Servants ſhould come and complain to the Owner what dammage this beautifull room hath received, the Maſter of the Houſe and his Workmen have at hand a readie Anſwer, which is, Should hee not have propped and crampt the Houſe with Iron bolts and barrs, the whole fabrick would have fallen, and the Houſe have been made a heap of rubbiſh, both hee and they would have had no place to keep them from the weather.

By this my propping and cramping up

my House (saith the wise Master and his VVorkmen) I have secured and got my *Esse*, I have kept my beeing; when my House is new tiled and tyte, to keep out the weather, you shall have your desire, I will give you all content, I will cause Plaisterers to repair and garnish that seiling which you are so much offended with the cracking of; I will new gild it, and make it more beautifull then ever it was, provided you will put to your hands to sweep down the Cob-webbs, and carrie away the rubbish, and so cleanse and clear my House; do this, I promise you I will do the other.

No doubt, but a wise and dutifull familie will do it chearfully with thanks, for their *Esse* and beeing hath been preserved through the Master of the families Providence.

May it pleas Your HIGHNESS; I humbly say, The good people of these Nations under your protection, ought (at this juncture of time) earnestly to pray to God, that the foundations of their Happiness may bee so laid, this Parlament (as to secure firmly their beeing) that they may have an *Esse*, and then comes the *Bene*, that it may bee as firmly setled upon as sure a foundation as a Rock, against whom no divisions or force can or shall prevail.

For the effectual Security of these Nations, that this Parlament would bee pleased to erect a high Court of Justice, to sweep down the cobwebbs, remove the rubbish, clear the house, and by Justice restrain and (if incorrigible) cut off unruly and violent spirits. Wise men cut their coats according to their cloth, and will bee sure to keep themselvs warm, before they buy Lace to trimm them. Upon my knees I humbly desire your Highness, *to put the Nation in a posture of defence, against home-bred Traytors and forain Force, and then bee pleased to garnish the People with rich and stately Priviledges.*

Security ought to bee provided for before Ornament.

The Divisions at home are farr more destructive and dangerous, than any forain Force or Invasion can bee to this Nation. God bee thanked, the Sea is a hook in our Enemies nostrils; they may bee numerous, but they are at a distance. I hope this Nation in one respect may have a Property that Ireland *hath, that no Spider or venemous living Creature but dies assoon as it is put on* Irish *ground: So, I pray God, none of* Englands *Enemies (either home-bred Traytors or forain Nations) that shall invade us, but upon their first Landing, may by Gods Assistance finde* English *ground to bee their graves, by the virtue and valor of your* Highness *Armies.*

I have heard of a famous *Vaulter*, that having once ſhewed a rare trick, was preſſed by ſome to do it again; and ſtriving to do it the ſecond time, brake his neck.

God divided the red Sea, and made a paſſage for the Children of *Iſraël* to bring them out of *Egypt* towards *Canaan*, this I finde and reade; but I never found nor read, that God would have divided the red ſea, and given them a ſafe Paſſage, if they would have left *Moſes* and *Aaron*, and returned into the red Sea again for *Egypt*.

VVee have a Proverb, *The pot goes often to the water, but at laſt it comes broken home.* Gods providence hath gone along with us, while hee bids us go and fight his battell, wee have ſeen the ſucceſs. No man can promiſe a Bleſsing, when wee fall out amongſt our ſelvs for ſhadows, and neglect our common Safeties. Many men have laid their deſignes to bring a miſchief about, ſo deep, that when they ſpring their mines, the powder that makes the train ſhall bee freedom and priviledge of Parlament, Gods Cauſe, and what not, to make a diſturbance. The truth is, if ſome men would ſpeak their mindes truly, there are a ſort of people do but *cajole* the common people, and blow them into diſcontents to get into places of power, as

Abſalom

Abſalom did, with *I would I were a Judg in Iſraël, what Juſtice would I do?* ſo ſaies ſome *male*-contented Members that were of the long Parlament, If wee can bnt revive *Lazarus*, get the long Parlaments power to ſit everlaſtingly; VVell, what then? wee will reſtore the People to their Libertie; Even as much as you did it when you had the power; for they had ſo entangled themſelvs and the Nation, that rich and poor, young and old, were glad they were diſſolved; and many of them are aſhamed of their own doings, yet ſome of the old Members would fain bee at the old VVork.

They vvould (had they your *Highneſs* povver) deſtroy and pluck up by the roots You, that had vvrung the povver out of their hands, alſo your Poſteritie, your Counſel, Army, and all your relations. I humbly ſay, I beleeve theſe vvould bee the Actions of ſome of the Members of the long Parlament, had they the povver again; and this is the ſtudy of ſome diſcontented Members.

To ſtir up and foment the ſeveral humors and tempers of ſome factious people, to gather together and involve us in blood again, vvhatmeaneth the daily ſeditious printed Libells elſe? if your *Highneſs*, the Parlament, and Army look not vigilantly about

to ſuppreſs theſe *male*-contents, (before they get a head) by exemplarie Juſtice. I humbly ſay, the miſchief is not ſo inconſiderable, that it ſhould bee diſpiſed.

And if it ſhould ſo fall out, that this miſchief ſhould burſt out, (as God of his infinite mercie defend) by the neglect either of your *Highneſs*, the Parlament or Armie; no doubt but God, having put us of theſe Nations into your hands for juſt protection, for ſuch as ſubmit to you for conſcience ſake; the ſame God vvill require a juſt accompt of your *Highneſs*, Parlament and Armie, hovv you have diſcharged this great truſt; and vvhereſoëver the failing of the Truſt is, God vvill expect a ſtrict accompt, and puniſh it: for mens lives ought not to bee ſpilt as water on the ground, nor their goods plundered, to ſatisfie factious and private ſpirits: The ſupreme Magiſtrate is to ſee the peace of the Nation not to bee diſturbed upon particular factions, though they bee multitudes. The Magiſtrate ſet over us is not to bear the ſword in vain: Juſtice is ſomtimes more ſeaſonable for the Nation (upon incorrigible Offenders) then Mercie, that others may take example.

May it pleaſ Your HIGHNESS; A maſter of Ship in a ſtorm at ſea, may fling goods over-board, for ſaving the Paſ-

ſengers,

ſengers, Ship, and Loading; and the Owners muſt bear the loſs, with thanks for his care; which if hee ſhould do in a calm, (ſling the goods over-board) hee vvould deſerve blame and to pay for the merchandize: That may lawfully bee done in dangerous times, which cannot bee juſtified in quiet times.

There are ſome Priviledges in a quiet time, vvhich may and ought to bee ſtood upon, which at this time are deſtructive to the very beeing and ſafetie of the Nation; For if every man ſhould bee admitted to give Phyſick that the Neighbors preſent and commend out of love to a ſick man, the patient may quickly bee purged out of the vvorld: Dangerous times muſt have skilfull, valiant, and vigilant managers of their Affairs, and not diſcontented perſons.

Wee ſee in Fevers, Calentures, and Lunacies, wiſe Phyſitians ſometimes bindes the hands, and give their Patients thin and ſpare diet; which, by the care and attendance of the Phyſitian and Friends, the Sick are again recovered: Surely when they are in health, theſe mad men ought to thank their Phyſitian and Friends, as beeing (under God) the Inſtruments that gave them Life and Beeing: When theſe mad men are well recovered, they need not to bee reſtrained within doors, they need not to bee deburred of a free

and plentifull diet, but to enjoy all they have freely, and to dispose of it as they please themselvs. If these Rules vvere not observed, when men are in a Lunacie or Sick, it would destroy Societie, and bee destructive to mankinde. A mad man with a knife may cut his own throat; vvith a sword, kill and wound all hee meets. A Sick man may eat or drink so much as may kill him, fling off the cloaths, or otherwise disorder himself.

Now, may it pleas your *Highnes*; If these bee ordinary bonds and relations of Christianity, Neighbor-hood and Friendship between partie and partie, and is used amongst the most barbarous Nations, as the means to preserve a beeing; hovv much more is it your *Highnes* Dutie and Place, and God expects it from your hands (beeing assisted vvith the supreme Court of Parlament) to bee a good and mercifull Physitian to the distempered and sick men of the Nation, *some old Members of the long Parlament?* *A disease of the minde, and an inveterate heart are not curable, but by Gods blessing: such evil spirits are not cast out but by Praier and Fasting. How mercifully have you dealt with some of them that were chosen to sit in Parlament, in not suffering them to runn upon that (which certainly had some of them been admitted to sit in Parlament)*

lament) they would have runn themselves upon a Rock to their own Confusion?

May it pleas Your HIGHNESS; I do not say, all those Gentlemen that were not at first admitted, God defend; for many, no doubt, are honorable and worthie Personages, and will give your HIGHNESS, the Parlament and Counsel just satisfaction. The like (I most humbly say) for those honorable and worthie Gentlemen, that are gone down into their Countries; no doubt, many upon their private occasions to settle their Business, and return to do the Parlament and Nation Service.

May it pleas your HIGHNESS; there is a saying, Hee is more mercifull that prevents a man from falling, then hee that takes him up after hee is fallen, and could have staid his falling; it shews an aboundance of bowels of mercie, that your *Highness* would not let some men run their desperate course, that they, when they were entangled in the net of their own inventions, might have enriched your Coffers by their Confiscations, and ruined their families.

God hath put it into your heart, to save them as a brand out of the fire; for had they been let alone, they had some of them burnt their wings. If they reade the Historie of

former Kings Craft (as King *James* uſed to call it); they conſtantly made Riſings and Tumults an advantage unto them by Confiſcations and Forfeitures, to augment the Revenues of the Crown. And, no doubt, (many a man for the very covetouſneſs to get his Eſtate) ſome Kings have hatched and revived old Treaſons themſelvs, to get and enſnare ſometimes Innocents, and ſometimes heedleſs Traitors. Hiſtories, both divine and profane have ſuch examples.

God ſend ſome men never to forget your *Highneſs* goodneſs; for when they had runn their courſe (as ſome Gentlemen in the *North* and *Weſt* have done) ſome would have com to untimely deaths, others to baniſhment, and all to ruine and infamie (to the breakhart of their Wives, Children, and relations); and ſome others, with ſorrow, teares, and unfeigned repentance, to have begged for their lives, and (peradventure) not obteined it, being cut off in their prime & ſtrength, before half their daies are runn out.

Their Wives, Children, and Relations of ſome Families in this Nation, are bound to bleſs God for ever, that put it into your *Highneſs* heart to prevent ſome men in this Nation, that they ſhould not forfeit their lives nor eſtates: a great mercie (with reverence

bee

bee it spoken) *in imitation of the great God of Heaven, that hath said,* I will not the death of a sinner; *and with long suffering and patience beareth with sinfull man, whose breath is in his nostrils, and lighter then the dust in the balance. What are the private* male-*contents of this Nation in your* Highness *hands, so long as you make God your Shield and Buckler? Under Gods safegard and tuition, mighty Kings and Commonwealths have not been able to resist the force of your Armies and Navies;* (*witness,* Holland, Denmark, Portugal, *&c.*) *that God that hath delivered you from the Bear and the Lyon, will deliver you from these uncircumcised Philistins, if you put your trust in him.*

The Blessing of him that spake out of the burning Bush, bless your *Highness* and your High Court of *Parlament,* and direct all your Counsels, that this Parlament may prove a Blessing to this Nation; And that your *Highness* and the *Parlament* may bee (as *Moses* and *Aaron* to the Children of *Israël*) the Deliverers of these Nations out of the Land of *Egypt*; And that God would send the spirit of Courage, Love & Concord upon all your Persons, & bless the Counsels and Acts of this Session of Parlament; That your *Highness* may bee a Nursing-father, and with compassion ease the Griefs and Oppressions of your

People, (many of your good and loial Subjects at this day ſuffering much wrong and oppreſsion, *amongſt whom your humble Suppliant is not the leaſt, beeing oppreſſed contrary to Gods Law and the Laws of the Nation.*

Your Supplicants daily praier is, That God of his mercie will blaſt and ſcatter all inventions & plots that are or ſhall be hatching againſt your *Highneſs* and the high Court of Parlament, either of forain Foes or native Rebells; And that God would turn the Counſels of ſome of the malicious *Achitophels* of this Nation that are ſequeſtred and laid aſide, and ſome others that have maliciouſly deſerted their Truſts, into Fooliſhneſs; And if they do maliciouſly, wilfully and fooliſhly perſiſt ſtill to ſeek the diſturbance of theſe Nations, over which God by his divine Providence hath made your *Highneſs* Governour and PROTECTOR; that then your ſword of Juſtice may fall on ſome of them, to terrifie others, or (which is worſe) that ſome of them may (if they do not repent of this malicious ſin to God and your *Highneſs* for what they had maliciouſly deſigned) they may ſerve themſelvs as *Achitophel* did, 2 *Sam.* 17. 23. *And when* Achitophel *ſaw that his counſel was not followed, hee ſadled his aſs, and aroſe and gat him home to his own houſe to his Citie, and put*

his

houſhold in order; and HANGED *himſelf, and was buried in the Sepulchre of his Fathers.*

Let this bee the end of your *Highneſs*'s malicious and implacable Enemies; others that erre through mis-information or difference in Judgment, I pray God to ſhew them a ſight of their ſins, and give your *Highneſs* a mercifull heart, ſo freely to pardon them, as your Self would expect Gods pardon; that ſo, through the great mercie and protection of our God, theſe three Nations (after ſo manie Earth-quakes, Overturnings, and moſt famous and memorable Revolutions) may bee firmly grounded and ſetled on the foundations of Libertie and Freedom, Truth, Mercy, and Peace; to the aſtoniſhment and amazement, horror and confuſion of home-bred Traitors and forain Nations, your *Highneſſes* and our Nations Enemies.

VVhen they ſhall ſee their hopes diſappointed, many of them promiſed to themſelvs, *viz*, Uproars, Tumults and Commotions, Fire and Blood; every man ready to ſheathe his ſword in his Neighbors bowels, the rocks to rend, and the Starrs of our Firmament to fall, our Sun to bee darkned, and Moon to bee turned to blood, through the diviſions and private diſcontents amongſt us in Parlament.

But BEHOLD! by the good guidance of God, this glorious Parlament running its course as the Sun in his strength, to the joy and comfort of our Friends, both at home and abroad, and confusion of our Foes in all parts; that see this Parlament sit in Glorie and Peace, in Love, Union, Order, and Concord, in that form as was wont to bee in Glorious Queen *ELIZABETH*'s daies, every Member making it his studie to get good Laws, Liberties and Priviledges for the Counties, Cities and Burroughs they served for; and for these Nations of *England*, *Scotland* and *Ireland* in general, for the individual Safetie, Prosperitie, VVelfare and Honor of *Protector* and *People*, all their Interest to goe hand in hand together. And your *Highness* acting Queen *Elizabeth*'s part, studying alwaies to enlarge your Self, to give these Nations all just and due Satisfaction and large Immunities.

Your *Highness* and the Parlament building up this Common-wealth, as *Nehemiah* did the walls of *Jerusalem*, *Nehem.* 4. every Builder to have his sword girded by his side, and so they builded; there are several other remarkable passages in that Chapter fit for these present times.

By the blessing of God, these glorious Beginnings

ginnings of this Parlament will have as an auſpicious and happie end and finiſhing, to the great contentment of your *Highneſs* and all the good people of your ſeveral large Dominions, to the terror of your Enemies, and the fruſtrating of many *Spaniſh* deſignes, that were and are hatching here, under ſpecious pretences of ſeveral mens Intereſts and Diſcontents.

Theſe mens Eggs were buried (no doubt) in *India* Gold; but, by the good guidance of God, the *Spaniards* Eggs will prove addle; He is ſo ſubtle (by the Counſel of his Jeſuites, caſting themſelvs into all ſhapes) for hee doth moſt of his work by the Jeſuites, who ſow and foment new Doctrines amongſt us, that have bewitched and cracked the heads of many men in theſe Nations, which do the *Spaniards* and Papiſts work, and know it not.

VVhen your *Highneſs* Navies ſailed to the VVeſt-*Indies*, You cauſed them to bee ſheathed with Planks, Pitch and Hair, that the worms which breed in thoſe Seas might do no hurt or prejudice to the hull or bulk of their Ships.

Great SIR! *England*, *Scotland* and *Ireland* may well bee compared to three Roial Ships, and the Dominion of *Wales* to a moſt Princely Frigot, Your *Highneſs* by the

of God being *Protector*, *General* and *Admiral*.

Your *Highneſs* hath now a Warr with Him that ſtiles himſelf *the Emperor of the Indies*. This Prince is Maſter of a Metall that is as dangerous to all Princes in Chriſtendom, their Perſons, Countries, Lands and Territories, as the Worms in the *Indian* Seas are to the Merchants ſhips. No Iron barrs can bee made ſo ſtrong, but this Metall (like *Aqua fortis*) will eat thorough. It is called *Gold* and *Silver*; it is ſo ſubtle, that it will incorporate (like Quick-ſilver) almoſt with all metalls: Men of all Profeſsions, all Ages, rich and poor, young and old, none but are taken and corrupted with it, as hee is a Natural man.

But God hath appointed a Remedie againſt this Poiſon to ſome perſons through his mercie, *the pretious balſom of his reſtraining Grace*; but this hee grants but to a few, whoſe ſpirits are elevated above *Gold* and *Silver*, this world or worldly things.

God hath appointed another Balſom for theſe Nations againſt the Poiſon of *Spaniſh* Gold and Silver; and that is, to bleſs theſe Nations with your *Highneſs* victorious PERSON, beeing aſsiſted with your ſupreme Counſell the Parlament.

Upon my knees I moſt humbly ſay, As you ſheathe your Ships you ſend to *India* for

fear

fear of the VVorm; ſo your *Highneſs* muſt ſheathe the Cinque-ports and Creeks of your HIGHNESS Dominions, you muſt fortifie and garriſon the Sea-ports of this Nation, and the People bee alwaies readie (both in hand and heart, all as one man) to fight for our Religion, Countrey, our Lives, Wives and Children, Lands and Eſtates; and without this bee done, wee ſhall not have a Beeing, Eſtates or Proprietie: this is the one thing neceſſary and chiefly to bee lookt after, to fortifie and ſecure the Nation againſt home-bred Traitors and forain Forces.

And, if any ſhould preſume to aſſault us, wee may bee afore-hand, and by our Navies deſtroy their Ships & Veſſels in their own Seas, let their Land be died with their *Spaniſh* blood, let their barren Countrey bee fatned with their own Carkaſſes; and as they give in their Monies the Sheaf of Arrows, as a remembrance of the great Victories they obteined by the Valor of the *Engliſh*; ſo now, for their Ingratitude, the *Spaniards* may cry as they did in Queen *Elizabeths* time, to *Philip* the Second King of *Spain* and his Counſel, SIR, *Let us have Peace with* England, *and Warr with all the World.* And if they did ſo when this Nation had but one *Drake*, and a ſmall Fleet (in compariſon of what your

Highnes hath, wee having now many score of *Drakes*, which if they bee impowered with your HIGHNESS Commission, and Gods Blessing thereupon) they shall never bee able to bring home their Treasures from the VVest-*Indies*; and though our Fleet wait long, no doubt the Vigilancie of your Admirals will make the *Spaniards* pay for their attendance.

About sixteen years ago, God (out of his secret Judgment) struck the Crown of Spain *with a dead Palsie on one side, by the revolting of the* Portugals, *their right heir and true King assumed the Crown, viz. the Duke of* Bragantza, *so that now your* Highnes *fights but with one half of the King of* Spain, *as hee was formerly; the other half the* Portugal *will assist You in all his Dominions (both in Christendom,* Africa, *East and West* Indies) *to destroie the* Spaniards.

So that as God hath raised your Highnes *to this Greatnes admirably, to have the Soveraignity and Dominion of these Nations; so by this rent and division of* Portugal *from* Spain, *God hath facilitated and made the way easie for your* Highnes *to cut down and pluck up by the roots this barren Tree the* Spaniards. *And those Nations in the West-*Indies, *which at this day live under the* Spanish *Tyranny, and are now fed with the chaff and bran of* Popish Superstition,

tion, *may bee (by the bleſsing of God) fed with the pure manchet of the* Goſpel, *and at once bee delivered from bodily and ſpiritual ſlavery.*

My daily praier to God is, to keep us unanimous in this Nation of *England*, as wee and our Predeceſſors were in famous Queen *Elizabeths* daies; that it may bee the ſtudy of every good Proteſtant in this Nation with heart, hand and purſe, to deſtroy the *Spaniards* greatneſs.

The King of *Spains* Power is now not half ſo much as it was before *Portugal* revolted from him, and his Power is now farr more in ſhew then ſubſtance; his Territories and Dominions are at ſuch a diſtance one from another, they ſtand like the haires of King *James's* beard, ſcatteringly, as if one was afraid of another: the charges of Garriſons, and to keep his Dominions under his Obedience, doth coſt him (in ſome Countries) farr more to keep the bare Title, then the Revenues of the Countries amount unto, witneſſe our next Neighbour *Flanders*; and the like is for many other of his Dominions, that yearly coſt him many hundred thouſand pounds, hee holds a VVolf by the ears; and if the King of *Spain* could bee well rid of them, both Hee, and his Counſel (no doubt) wiſhes both *Flanders* and *Holland* drowned in the

Seas; they have been the Spunges that have ſucked up all his Treaſure yearly.

There was wont of old to bee a ſaying, No Fiſhing like the Fiſhing in the ſea; No ſervice like a Kings: ſo, I humbly ſay, No Warr like a Warr with Spain, *No ſervice like a Protectors ſervice.*

If wee can but light on the King of *Spains Indian* Fleets, & ſtop that Courſe, your *Highneſs* and theſe Nations (by Gods aſsiſtance) will turn the ſcales of all the Affairs of Chriſtendom, and make your *Highneſs* appear the true Defender of the Faith in theſe *Imperial* Dominions, and the Sword and Buckler of all the Proteſtant Churches in Chriſtendom.

It is a Rule amongſt Gaimſters, *Winn at firſt, loſe at laſt*; and great Undertakings are not to bee effected but with great Difficulties. If it pleaſe God to put it into your *Highneſſes* and this *Parlaments* hearts, vigorouſly and vigilantly to purſue the VVarr in the VVeſt-*Indies*, all the Proteſtants in Chriſtendom will bee bound to bleſs God, and pray for your *Highneſs* and this glorious *Parlament*; and, by the Bleſsing of God, You and your Armies and Navies will cut the King of *Spain* in the *jugular* vein; as the *Dutch* man ſaith, *Kill him as dead as a herring*: which muſt bee done by the unanimous Power of theſe three Nations.

This

This Courſe vvill make great *Brittany* and *Ireland*, and their ſeveral and reſpective Ports, Havens and Harbors thereof, to act and do *Cadis* and St *Lucars* work; our Britiſh and Iriſh ſea-port Towns (by the proſperous conduct of your *Highneſs* Admirals and Generals) to be the Bancks, Magazins and Scales for Return of *Indian* Treaſure, Jewels, and precious Merchandize. The Drumm and Trumpet encourages Horſe and Man to Battell. The word *India*, and to bee maſter of the Treaſure (as Gold, Silver, and other good things) of that new VVorld, no doubt is and will bee more inducing to many noble ſpirited Gentlemen, Merchants and Mariners of this Nation, then Drumm and Trumpet to Souldiers. But when the Land-ſouldierie ſhall be likewiſe intereſſed in the Purchaſe and Honor of this noble Undertaking; and the praiers and purſes of the good people of this Nation in general, and an Act of this Parlament for ſetling a way for the vigorous proſecution and maintenance of this juſt VVarr, for the Good and Peace of Chriſtendom, to goe along in this glorious Action. Then ſurely it will bee a voice of thunder and terror to the *Spaniards*; they have ſeen their beſt daies, and the Maſſacres and Cruelties they have committed in the *Indies*, confeſſed by their own

Countrey-men; now calls them to a ſtrict accompt for the ſins of their Fore-fathers.

All good people of theſe Nations may juſtly ſay, your *Highneſs* is ſent by God as a Bleſsing of God to Chriſtendom, and as a ſecond *Joſhua* to our *Iſraël*, to fight the Lords Battels; And by your moſt valiant Generals, Admirals, Land and Sea-ſouldierie, to put the People of theſe Nations into poſſeſsion of the *Weſt-Indies*.

There is a ſort of wilfull People in theſe Nations, that repine and murmur, and will not ſee your *Highneſs* make theſe Nations happie. I humbly ſay, Your Enemies ſhall ſee this glorious VVork done by your *Highneſs*, which ſhall cauſe ſome men to burſt with anger. God hath appointed the Valor of this Nation to bee a terror and ſcourge to the *Spanyards*.

By this means the Spaniſh Greatneſs will go out like the ſnuff of a Candle, and all Chriſtendom, that hath been diſturbed and put into Garbles, confuſions, and Tumults, by their Ambition and Pride, to the ſlaughtering and murthering of millions of men, waſting whole Kingdomes and Nations, their wounds and ſcarrs lye bleeding at this day in ſeveral places.

May it pleaſ Your Highness; *The Weſt* Indies *is the King of* Spain's *ſting*; *as*

Sampſon's

Sampſon's *ſtrength lay in his Hair, ſo doth the ſtrength of the King of* Spain *lye in his* Indies: *Clip but off his Trade of Returns from the* Indies, *Your* Highneſs *will finde him as weak as water, and ſo poor, that hee ſhall not bee able to pay for a* Poore-John *or a* Pilcher; *You will hit him in the Ball and White of the Eye: If you take the* Indies *from him by the valour of Your People, the* Engliſh *may make his* Caſtilianians *grinde Sugar Canes in the* Barbadoes, *and uſe them as* Sampſon *was uſed in the Priſon-houſe, and keep the* Spaniards *ſo poor, that the Hair of their heads ſhall never grow again to diſturb Chriſtendom.*

God ſtill; for ever keep the ſpirit of Union in theſe Nations in general, that every man in his Calling may have a heart and hand to build up our Breaches: that both Your Highneſs *and your People may as one man ſeek the Individual Proſperity the one of the other, even as it is the ſtudy and care of every good Husband and good Wife to pleaſe and content one another: And this is no more then (I moſt humbly ſay) Prudence requires at this time; for the Adverſaries of our Peace are vigilant, and leave no ſtone unturned to break in upon us, and to make a diviſion either in hearts or hands, at this conjuncture of time, may hazard and diſturb the whole Nation.*

Now the God of *Abraham*, *Isaac* and *Jacob*, which never slumbereth nor sleepeth, direct your *Highness* and this glorious *Parlaments* Counsels and Actions for his Honor and the Safety and Peace of all these Nations, over whom your HIGHNESS (by the Grace of God) is PROTECTOR; That as Your *Highness* is great and glorious in this World, you may bee also great and glorious in the World to come. So prayeth,

LONDON, *Sept.* 24. 1656.

Your HIGHNESS's

most loyal, dutifull

[redacted] *and obedient Subject,*

THOMAS VIOLET.

TO

To His Highneſs

OLIVER

LORD PROTECTOR

OF

England, Scotland & Ireland,

and the Dominions thereunto belonging.

May it pleaſe Your Highneſs!

HAving formerly (in *November* 1655, and *April* 1656 laſt) moſt humbly preſented Your *Highneſs* in writing with ſom humble PROPOSALS, for Your Service, in relation to the calling to a true and juſt accompt all perſons that have, directly or indirectly, in their Cuſtodies, the publick Monies, Lands, Plate, Jewels, Merchandiſe, or

any other thing or things of value; and alſo the Statute made at *Weſtminſter* in the tenth year of the Reign of *Richard* the Second: which excellent Law was made to bring to a ſtrict accompt all ſuch as had defrauded the King and State. The then Parlament, in making that good Act, was ſo carefull to have all perſons brought to accompt, that had received the publick Treaſure, and all ſuch as had defrauded the King and Realm, that they made it a *premunire* and loſs of a man's Eſtate, beſides impriſonment, for any (of what degree ſoëver) that perſwaded or gave counſel unto the King to have the ſaid good Law defeated. And they found the ſtrict and due execution of that Law to bee the onely *Balſom* to cure the great diſtempers and debts of the Common-wealth, and eaſe the good people in general of great outrages, oppreſsions, and inſupportable charges. Theſe are the very words of that Statute.

Upon the delivery of this Writing, Your moſt humble Subject received Your *Highneſs*'s gracious pleaſure by Mr *Kelleway*, that Your *Highneſs* did approve of thoſe his humble and loial endeavours for Your Service; and that they ſhould bee taken into conſideration.

May it pleaſ Your *Highneſs*; Your humble Subject finding that on the 26 of *May*, 1656. a Commiſſion was iſſued out, under the Great Seal of *England*, to certain perſons, for to make enquiry and diſcovery concerning all perſons that have in their hands or poſſeſsions, Moneys, Goods, Plate, Merchandiſe, or any thing of value appertaining to the Common-wealth, *&c.* Whereupon Your loial Subject did preſent unto Your *Highneſs*'s ſaid Commiſſioners at *Worceſter*-houſ (about the laſt day of *May*) the names of ſeveral perſons who had been entruſted and employed as Accomptants and Treaſurers to receiv and finger the publick Monies, Lands and Marchandiſe. Very many of theſe perſons have made the Commonwealth's Money, Lands, Goods and Merchandiſe which they

were

were entruſted with, ſo like their own, that to this day it ſtick's in theſe men's hands, and is in their private poſſeſsion, to the great dammage of the Nation. And many of them (upon examination) will bee found to have at this time vaſt ſumms of money in their hands and poſſeſsions amongſt them all, to the value of many hundred thouſand pounds, Likewiſe your loial Subject hath moſt humbly preſented your *Highneſs* how ſtrict Queen *Elizabeth* was to have all her Receivers called to a juſt accompt, never ſparing her great Officers and Favorites, by which means ſhee lived and died rich, never finding want in her Exchequer, nor her Cheſts without Treaſure.

Your faithfull Subject finde's now (upon his Inquiry) many of theſe Gentlemen that were Treaſurers and Accomptants, to wonder and make it ſtrange, that ever they ſhould live to ſee the day that any perſons ſhould call them in queſtion upon their accompts (and that a juſt and true accompt ſhould bee ever expected by the State) from all perſons that have received and poſſeſſed themſelvs of the publick Moneys, Lands, and Merchandiſe, &c.

May it pleaſ your *Highneſs*, your humble Suppliant ſaie's, That that opinion of theſe Gentlemen (for to have a perpetual Indempnity, and to eſcape ſcot-free, as hee moſt humbly conceiv's, is not grounded upon any juſt or true reaſon); for there bee hundreds of Orders, Ordinances and Acts to enable them and thouſands of people now living to bee Collectors of Subſidies, Committee-men, Treaſurers, Exciſe-men, Commiſsioners of the Cuſtoms, Truſtees for the ſale of the King, Queen and Prince's Lands, Biſhop's, Deans and Chapters, and other Delinquents Lands, Receivers, Sequeſtrators, and Collectors of the monthly Taxes, Collectors for Charitable Uſes; and all and every one of theſe perſons, by the fundamental Laws of this Nation, their bodies, lands and eſtates from the time and hour they became Debters to the Commonwealth, their Perſons, Heirs, Executors and Adminiſtra-

for, their and every one of their Goods, Tenements, into whoſe hands they are ſold, converted, or do com. And all other Lands, Tenements, Goods and Chattels, which any other perſon then had, or now have in truſt for their uſe, or which at any time ever hereafter ſhall have power to diſpoſe of, are all lyable to the due and true accompting, paying and anſwering your *Highneſs* and your Succeſſors the monies, lands and goods, &c. they have received; and this is by many Statutes known to be the law of England. And many of them (before they were admitted to act as Truſtees, Sequeſtrators, Committe men or Treaſurers) took an Oath not to act contrary to the ſeveral Rules, Limitations and Inſtructions given them by ſeveral Acts and Orders of Parlament and Council of Sate, as appeareth by the Journal books and printed Acts and Ordinances of Parlament and Council of State; likewiſe many of the aboveſaid perſons, upon ſtrict examination, will bee found wilfully perjured, which makes the Offenders lyable to fine and ranſom for the breach of their Oaths.

The Lawes now in force (to bee duely and truely executed for to have an exact accompt) will bring your *Highneſs* and the Common-wealth in milions of money: there is not any one of the aforeſaid perſons can ſhew any Order, Ordinance, Act of the Council of State or Act of Parlament, (that when they were made Committee-men or Treaſurers) to give them, or any one of them, a privilege or indempnity to cozen and defraud the State, or to licence any one of them to pocket up the Wealth and publick Treaſure of the Nation, which they have fraudulently converted to their own uſe. And when they can ſhew no ſuch privilege, (nor ſo much as a pardon) they need not make it ſtrange, as many of them do at this day, That they ſhould bee forced to give the Common-wealth a juſt, ſtrict, and true Accompt, or elſ their Bodies and Eſtates, as alſo their Heirs, Executors, Adminiſtrators and Aſsigns to bee lyable, till they ſhall have juſtly and truly accompted.

Your

Your Highneſs's humble ſubject delivered in Writing to your Commiſsioners at *Worceſter*-Houſ certain Queries for his better direction to proceed in this ſervice, and moſt humbly deſired their judgments thereupon, that ſo hee might know whether his diſcoveries were within the cognizance of their Commiſsion. All which hee humbly preſented unto them, as being verie materiall both for your Highneſs and the Commonwealths ſervice and hee told the Commiſsioners, that hee intended to make their judgment thereupon to him, to bee his Rule either to proceed or deſiſt in theſe diſcoveries, to avoid unneceſſary expence and trouble to himſelf and others.

May it pleaſ your Highneſs, in *June* laſt your Supplicant left with your Highneſs ſervant *Mr Kelleway* the true copie of the Writing hee did deliver to the Commiſsioners at *Worceſter*-Houſ, and moſt humbly beſought him to preſent the ſame unto your Highneſs. And his moſt humble petition to your Highneſs was, That you would bee graciouſly pleaſed, upon your *Highneſs*'s peruſal, to ſignifie your pleaſure thereupon to your humble and loyal ſubject, concerning the premiſſes; that ſo hee might know how to proceed but *Mr Kelleway* having no covenient opportunitie to get your *Highneſs* to peruſe the ſame (by reaſon of your *Highneſs* other great and weighty affairs) thereupon your Supplicant received back the ſaid writing again from *Mr Kelleway*, and hath now printed the ſame.

The true reaſon wherefore your humble Subject hath forborn to attend the Commiſsioners at *Worceſter*-houſ, to receiv their order and direction concerning the premiſſes, is, becauſ your moſt humble and loyall ſubject intends to put in the ſame Writing into the Parlament, and there will humbly wait for your *Highneſs*'s and the Parlaments gracious Commands, and directions therein, And the reſults of that moſt high and honorable Court upon the premiſſes what your *Highneſs* and your high Court of Parliament in your great and profound wiſdomes ſhall judg fit to bee

don for the glory of God and good and eaſ of the nation concerning all the premiſſes.

May it pleaſ your *Highneſs*; your loyal Subject hath in ſom things enlarged himſelf more then in his writing hee left with your *Highneſs*: hee hopes, it is for the honor of God, the benefit of your *Highneſs*, and the eaſ of the good people of this nation in generall. His daily praiers to God is, That the publique Treaſure that is in private mens hands may, by a gracious Act of this enſuing Parliament, bee ordered, converted and turned into the right Channel, to ſave the publique Taxes; which will bee as a ſweet ſmelling Perfume in the noſtrels of the good people of this nation, when they ſhall ſee thoſe Caterpillers (that have not onely eaten the leavs, but barked the trees of this Commonwealth, uſing all opreſsions and fraud to grow rich) bee made to reſtore it. No doubt the work is pleaſing and acceptable to God and all good men; and then manie men (who have made their religion a cloak to cozen the Commonwealth) may bee made to reſtore their unjuſt deteined Treaſure and Lands. Many men (under the ſhaddow of ſanctitie) having made gain to bee great godlineſs, (inſtead of godlineſs) to bee great gain.

May it pleaſ your *Highneſs*; your moſt humble and loyall Subject, at your *Highneſs*'s feet, imploreth to bee relieved; having been impriſoned almoſt four years in the Tower of *London*; *viz*. 1643. to 1647. and two years and nine moneths of that time kept cloſe priſoner; his eſtate in lands, houſes, offices, goods and moneys being taken from him, to his dammage of eleven thouſand pounds (there being then, at his bringing up the late Kings letter from *Oxford* in *December* 1643. no known law or publique Ordinance to prohibit him to bring up the ſaid letter to the Lord Maior and Citie of *London*); and hee had a Paſs from the houſ of Commons to go to *Oxford*, as appears by the Journals in the Parlament houſ; and hee had at the ſame time a Warrant from the Lord General Eſſex to go to *Oxford*,

ford, procured by *Mr Theophilus Ryley*, then Scoutmaſter of of the Citie of *London*. May it pleaſ your *Highneſs* (by Gods Law) *Rom.* 4.15. *Where there is no Law, there is no Tranſgreſsion*; and by the known Laws of this nation, ſuch and ſuch Actions are declared Crimes, and lawes and rules ſet for the degree of puniſhing. And hee moſt humbly conceaveth, it is not in any juſt Judges power to exceed the puniſhment for any offence, more then is preſcribed and ſet down by the Law.

And it is expreſly provided for in *Magna Charta*, that no Free-man ſhall bee taken, impriſoned, or diſtreſſed of his free-hold or liberties, or any other waies deſtroied, but by lawful judgment of his Peers, or by the Law of the Land; That no man ſhould bee deferred or denied Juſtice, or Right.

Whereas your Supplicant, after he was out of the *Tower*, petitioned for ſix years conſtantly at the Parlament doors the members, and at the Counſel of State, to have a legal Trial by the Parlament, or elſ by the common Law; And to that end delivered ſeveral Petitions to ſeveral members of Parlament, yet your Supplicant could never have Juſtice. Som of the members of the then Parlament, after his many years conſtant attendance, and great expence, to com to a trial, told him, *Had hee been guilty, hee ſhould never needed to have petitioned the Parlament for a Trial; the Parlament would have granted him a Trial without petitioning for it.*

May it pleaſ your *Highneſs*; This is your moſt humble Subjects ſad condition, groaning under, and having ſo heavy a ſentence as the loſs of almoſt all his eſtate, to his dammage above eleven thouſand pounds, almoſt four years Impriſonment in the *Tower*, when there was no law made at his acting this Buſineſs, nor at the time of his Commitment, for either puniſhing of him, or any other, for acting the ſame thing (which was, bringing up the late Kings letter to the City in *December* 1643) but Ordi-

nances and Orders made after hee had brought up the King's Letter, for the Confiscation of his Estate, and Imprisonment of his Person, and a great part of his Estate given to private and particular men. Now with Tears and Sighs hee appeal's to Your *Highness*, for restoring him to his Estate and just Reparation, being oppressed and undon for a Pretended Crime, when there was no Law; no, not so much as the Breach of the Good Behaviour made against it in *December* 1643, either to Prohibit him or any other to do the same.

Hee hath printed this Business, with the several Houses, Offices, Bonds and Mony taken from him; To which hee doth most humbly refer himself, And Your Suplicant was daily faithfully promised by som worthy Members of the Long Parlament and Counsel of State, (who pittied Your Supplicant's sad Condition, seeing his willingness to serve the Commonwealth) to have Justice and Reparation: and that held up his Spirits, and kept him alwaies to bee willing, to the uttermost of his power and strength beyond the abilities of his Estate, to engage both his time and estate, for many years, to do the then Parlament many and great services, as appears by Your Loyal Subject's printed *Narrative*, 1653. The several Particulars were to his Charges and Expence of many Hundred Pounds, as by many Witnesses hee can and hath proved.

Besides, *One most Remarkable Service to the* Nation *in General Your Supplicant did, by the Command of the then* Counsel of State, *which shall, and ought to stop the mouths of every one, and all his Adversaries, that have, or shall maliciously traduce him as a Malignant, for a man disaffected to the* State, *or to the true happiness of the* Nation *in General.*

Your humble Subject did this service when Van Trump *was in the* Downes. *It was no small hazard, his venturing to deliver in a Paper to the* Counsel of Srate; *in* December 1653. *which Writing was by the* Counsel of State *referred to the* Committee

mittee for Forrain Affairs: *Wherein Your Supplicant discovered the fraudulent Practises of the* Spaniſh *Embaſſadour, and Duke* Leopoldus *and his Agents, to defraud the Parlament of a Vaſt Summ of Treaſure, above three hundred Thouſand Pounds; which was brought up into the River as a Prize, in three Ships,* viz. *The* Sampſon, Salvador, *and* George.

And this bee did, at the ſame time, when the Lord Embaſſador of Spain, *with many other Agents of Duke* Leopoldus, *and Licenſiados of the King of* Spain's, *living at* Antwerp, *did all of them affirm both to the* Judges *in the* Admiralty, *the* Counſel of State, *and to the* Parlament *in* November *and* December 1652, *that all the Lading, both Silver and Marchandize in the ſaid Ships, did appertain to the King of* Spain *and his Subjects, and none other.*

(May it pleaſ Your Highneſs, *I was far more troubled to finde out the frauds of the* Spaniards *Claims to the Silver in theſe Ships, and to bring it forth to bee proved by good and Lawfull Witneſſes, as I have here ont of the* Admiraltie, *to Intitle the* State *to the Silver in theſe Ships, Then I ſhall bee troubled to finde out the Frauds and Deceipts of all the Accomptants in General of this* Nation, *if once I bee but impowered by your* Highneſs *to have an Inſpection on the Accompts, and ſuch Rules followed and executed, as by the Laws and Statutes of this* Nation, *hath been formerly put in practice: and the whole Charge of this Diſcovery will not ſtand the* State *in* 12^{d} *the pound, to bring the Monies into the* Exchequer: *And it may bee ſo managed, not* Six pence *Charge upon the Pound.)*

The Spaniards *in the Court of* Admiralty, *by their Counſel, pleaded, that they ought not to have the* Onus probandum *caſt on them; being their Ships and Lading, and came from a free Port,* viz. Cadis *in* Spain; *and were conſigned to Free Ports,* Dunkerk *and* Oſtend, *that came over from beyond Seas purpoſely upon this Buſineſs: And they affirmed ſolemnly to the Court of* Admiraltie, *that there was no goods, ſilver, or Merchandize aboard all or any of the three Ships that appertained to the* Dutch *of the* United Provinces, *or* French.

Whereupon

Whereupon, there was an Order of Parlament, *about the beginning of* December 1652, *to the Judges of the* Admiraltie *to proceed to Judgment, according to the Course of the Court, concerning the Ships* Sampſon, Salvador *and* George, *and the Exſpectation of many hundred men was every day after to ſee the Ships diſcharged: and a day appointed for ſentence.*

Thereupon, ſom of the late Counſel of State *finding, that in ſom of your moſt humble Subject's Writings, hee had diſcovered many ſecret wayes how Merchants tranſport Gold and Silver, both out of this* Engliſh *Nation, and Forrein Parts: and ſom of them conceiving, that if Your Supplicant were impowered, and commanded to find out the* Spaniard's *Frauds; Hee could do it.*

Whereupon, the Counſel of State *ſent for Your Supplicant, and aſkt him, if hee could and would ſerve the* Parlament *faithfully, concerning theſe ſilver Ships: And if hee could, by good and legall Witneſſes, diſprove the* Spaniſh *Embaſſador's Claim to this Silver, in the Ships,* Sampſon, Salvador, *and* George, *the* Committee for Forrain Affairs *(in the behalf of the* Counſel of State *and* Parlament*) promiſed Your Supplicant hee ſhould bee reſtored to all his Eſtate, or the value which had been taken from him, or the Summe of Eleven Thouſand Pounds in Lieu thereof: and ſhould have of the* Parlament *a good Reward over and above.*

After, within two dayes time Your Supplicant waited on the Lord Bradſhaw, *and* Committee for Forrain Affairs, *and told them, hee would undertake to diſprove the* Spaniſh *Embaſſador's Claim to all this Silver, by Legal and undeniable Proof: And would prove, by clear Teſtimony, That there was ſeveral great quantities of Silver in theſe Ships that did not appertain to the King of* Spain, *or his Subjects; but to the* Dutch *of the* United Provinces. *Thereupon the* Counſel of State *by their Order of* December *the 13, 1652, Ordered Your Subject to aſſiſt, and bee in the nature of a Remembrancer, and to repair to Doctor* Walker *from time to time, who is the* Commonwealth's *Advocate for the proſecuting of theſe Ships (*Sampſon, Salvador, *and* George, *) which accordingly hee did.*

Thereupon,

Thereupon, the day the ſhips were to be diſcharged the Court of Admiralty, your humble and faithfull Subject made his proteſt in the Court of Admiraltie againſt the Judges and their Proceedings, as appears by the Certificate of the Officers of the Mint herewith preſented: And your Supplicant likewiſe declared in the Court of Admiraltie, that the Judges (but at their perils) ſhould not proceed to clear or diſcharge all or any of the afore-named ſhips, (as the *Sampſon*, *Salvador*, or *George*) till your Supplicant's witneſſes were examined in the behalf of the Commonwealth. This was *Decem.* 17. 1643.

Whereupon the Court of Admiraltie required your Supplicant to appear before the Counſel of State, that afternoon at three of the clock, to anſwer before the Counſel of State to their Charge for your Supplicants Action and Proteſt in the Court of Admiralty; your Supplicants Proteſt being made againſt and contrary to an Order of Parlament, as Judg *Exton* affirmed in the Court of Admiralty.

There was many hundred of Merchants in the Admiralty, the Spaniſh Ambaſſadors Secretary, Duke *Leopoldus* his Agents, and ſeveral Spaniards, when your Supplicant made his Proteſt againſt the diſcharge of theſe ſilver ſhips, ſilver and merchandiſe: And that very day in the afternoon, at the Counſel of State, before the Judges of the Admiralty, upon reading of ſom papers, your Supplicant humbly preſented againſt the diſcharge of the ſhips (the *Sampſon*, *Salvador*, and *George*) and all their ſilver and lading. Upon a full debate before the Counſel of State, theſe three ſhips and ſilver were all (by Order of the Counſel) ſtayed; and your *Supplicant* had thanks given him by the Counſel for his faithfull ſervice; and preſently commanded with all diligence to make his proof, whereby to diſprove the *Spaniſh* Ambaſſadors Claims.

In the further proſecution of this Buſineſs, your Supplicant received ſeveral Orders of the Counſel of State and of your *Highneſs*'s Counſel, which ordered him from time

to time to make his Addreſſes, and adviſe with Doctor *Walker* (your *Highneſs's* Advocate) in this Buſineſs.

Doctor *Walker* knows, that for 16 months together, your Supplicant employed many people in this Buſineſs, againſt the ſhips (*Sampſon*, *Salvador*, and *George*) their ſilver and lading. Your Subject employed ſeveral perſons in the tranſlation of Spaniſh and Dutch Papers, which are in the Regiſtrie of the Admiraltie; other perſons your Supplicant daily employed amongſt the Paſſengers and Seamen that belonged to theſe ſhips, to finde out and know what ſilver appertained and belonged to *Holland*, and all other matters that might tend to the diſcovery of this Buſineſs, conſtantly (as I ſaid) employing about ten men in this Service, as appears by their ſeveral *Affidauits*, for neer ſixteen months together. All theſe mens expences at their meetings, Boat-hire, and payment of them for their time, your moſt humble Supplicant out of his own purſ hath diſcharged. And this hee did, to enable himſelf to do this ſervice, and to finde out the bottom of the Spaniſh Ambaſſadors fraud, in claiming this ſilver. Your Supplicant (at the earneſt entreaty of Doctor *Walker*, as appears by his Warrants to the Examiner and Regiſter of the Admiralty) did cauſe to be breviated and read, and took notes of many thouſand ſheets of paper: ſom papers hee cauſed to bee tranſlated out of Dutch and Spaniſh into Engliſh, concerning the ſilver ſhips. For almoſt three months together, this was your Supplicants and ſeveral mens works; *viz.* one Mr *Glover*, that had lived a long time in *Holland*, and Mr *Baldwyne*, that had lived in *Spain*, as alſo your Supplicant and others which were daily employed about this Buſineſs, as the Regiſters and Examiners of the Admiralty can teſtifie: and all this was done by your Supplicant at his own charges, never receiving a penny as yet, either from the Parlament, Counſel of State, or your *Highneſs*, for all his diſburſments: and this your Supplicant did, at the command of the Counſel of State, & at the intreaty of Doctor *Walker*.

And

And had your Supplicant failed to make good his allegations, and not to have proved what hee undertook to do, hee had been totally a ſecond time undone. Your Supplicant muſt confeſs, that the old Counſel of State in *December* 1652. many of them told him, If hee ſhould fail of diſprooving the *Spaniſh* Ambaſſadors Claim, and could not prove what hee had alleged to the Counſel of State, that in theſe ſhips there was ſilver appertained to the Dutch of the United Provinces, That then his proteſting againſt the diſcharge of this ſilver, would totally undo your Supplicant, and bee his utter ruine.

Your *Highneſs*, and your moſt honorable Counſel, will ſee it cleerly proved, the great expence, pains and hazzard which your humble Subject hath been at till this very day, your Petitioner paying intereſt for above five hundred pounds; which money, every penny, hee expended in this ſervice (as appears by the Oaths of ſeveral perſons which your Supplicant employed, and they were privy to the laying out of the ſaid ſumms of money onely in this ſervice. (Theſe original Papers remain in Mr *Jeſſops* and Mr *Scobels* cuſtody.) And your humble Supplicant truſts in God and your Highneſs, that hee ſhall have his Eſtate reſtored, or the full value, for doing this great ſervice, according to the then promiſe of the then Counſel of State, whereof your *Highneſs* was then a Member.

May it pleaſ your *Highneſs*; Had the long Parlament and Counſel of State coined the money which yonr Supplicant ſtayed, or altered the property thereof, hee is really aſſured by many honorable Gentlemen of the long Parlament and the then Counſel of State, that hee ſhould have had full ſatisfaction with thanks for this great ſervice: But they could not pay the Reward, before they received the Benefit. I humbly ſay, *The old Counſel of State ſet mee (your loyal Subject) to beat the buſh for them, but your Highneſs caught the Bird; and ſince your Supplicant hath acted by ſeveral Orders of your Highneſs's Counſel, beeing promiſed by them a juſt*

and good Reward, I do moſt humbly implore your Highneſs for the ſame.

Your Petitioner hath printed theſe Examinations, Witneſſes, Tranſactions and Paſſages, and humbly tenders them at your *Highneſs's* and the Parlaments feet; that ſo your *Highneſs* and the Parlament may ſee the ſervice your Supplicant hath done. Had hee not taken this courſe, it had been impoſſible for him to have cleerly ſtated it to your *Highneſs* and the Parlament, and alſo to the whole Nation and world in general, what charges and pains hee hath been at to do this ſervice. This will cleerly ſhew to the world the juſt cauſe the then Parlament and Counſel of State had in 1652 for the ſtaying theſe ſhips (*Sampſon, Salvador,* and *George*) and their ſilver, from undeniable Teſtimonies. Upon the ſight whereof, the mouths of many clamoring merchants will be ſtopped, when they ſee upon what grounds this ſilver was ſtayed, and the clear witneſſes and proofs for to juſtifie the truth, to diſproov the Spaniſh Ambaſſadors and Spaniards Claims to all this ſilver in theſe ſhips.

May it pleaſe your *Highneſs*; it is out of the mouths of many of the Paſſengers in theſe ſhips that (this Voiage) came from *Spain* aboard theſe very ſhips, all able and credible witneſſes; they have confeſſed,

1. That great quantities of this ſilver and merchandiſe was delivered a ſhip board in *Spain* for the accompt of the *Hollanders* and Merchants of *Amſterdam*, and other parts of the United Provinces.

2. By ſeveral Adviſes from beyond Seas from *Holland* and *Spain* (by the Parlaments Agent at St Lucars in *Spain* Mr *Wilſon*, and Mr *Pompeys Calendrens* Letters from *Holland*, and Mr *Steniers* Letter, intercepted here in *England*) that theſe ſhips were bound for *Holland*, and a great part of the ſilver for merchants of *Holland* and *Zealand*: Alſo the Counſel of State had advice from *Holland*, that ſome of the ſame Fleet that ſet ſail from *Spain* at the ſame time with theſe

three

three ſilver ſhipt, being taken by the Parlaments men of Warr at ſea, were diſcharged from them, pretending themſelvs to bee bound for *Hamborough*, and ſo got diſcharged; and immediately, when they had got from our Fleet, ſailed directly into *Amſterdam*. The ſhips that ſo fraudulently cleared themſelvs and got into *Amſterdam*, after they were in the poſſeſsion of the Parlaments ſhips, were worth neer upon a million of money: had thoſe ſhips been brought to *London*, that Buſineſs had broak the *Hollanders* hearts.

3. It is proved, that when theſe ſhips ſet ſail to go their voyage, they all ſet ſail from *Holland* Ports.

4. It is proved by ſeveral merchants of *London* (that have put in their claims to ſeveral parcels of ſilver in theſe three ſhips) That ſeveral parcels of ſilver then aboard theſe ſhips, was loaden and put aboard theſe ſhips for the proper accompt of merchants of *London*. *Which clearly ſhewed the Spaniſh Ambaſſadors Claims to all this ſilver (as his Maſters ſilver, and onely for his Catholick Majeſtie, and his Subjects accompt) to bee a notortous State trick, and forged to get the Treaſure out of the States hands, that was in theſe ſhips.* And if the Spaniſh Ambaſſador could have done it, hee was to have had many thouſand pounds of the owners for doing of this State Buſineſs; but (by Gods aſſiſtance) your humble Supplicant prevented him, to his great expence and danger of his life for doing this ſervice.

5. It is confeſſed and proved, That ſeveral parcels of ſilver aboard theſe ſhips, were entred in Bills of Lading by feigned names, and colorably to avoid the taking of the ſilver and monies, likewiſe to avoid the adjudication and condemnation of the ſame, if theſe ſilver ſhips and their lading were ſeized on; *and that the Bills of Lading now produced in Court of Admiralty, were forged at ſea, when they heard wee had warrs with Holland, and all the Dutch names of the Bills altered.* This is proved.

6. There is in the Admiralty the States Generals Commiſsion to *De Wit* and *De Rutter* (their Vice-Admirals)

to guard theſe ſhips from the *Engliſh:* And this was done upon the petition of the merchants of *Amſterdam* to the States Generall. Theſe Letters and original Commiſsions under the great Seal of *Holland* I have printed; and the Originals can bee produced when there is occaſion. Without doubt the merchants of *Amſterdam* would not have petitioned the States Generals for a Convey for theſe ſhips, had not the Lading and ſilver belonged to them.

7. Your *Highneſs* will ſee (upon the whole matter and proſecution of this Buſineſs) your moſt humble Suppliant hath left no ſtone unturned, nor ſpared any coſt, hazzard or pains to do the Parlament (and ſince your *Highneſs*) this ſervice.) And your humble Supplicant is fully aſſured, That it is a far eaſier work for him to diſcover the frauds of the Accomptants and Committee men of this Nation, if hee had a Commiſsion to bee your *Highneſs*'s Remembrancer, to ſee this Buſineſs effectually proſecuted, than to have made this Diſcovery of theſe ſilver ſhips.

8. Hee hath clearly proved ſeveral unfree goods and parcels of ſilver aboard theſe ſhips, appertaining to the *Dutch*, (then our Enemies) which hath made all the ſilver and merchandiſe lyable to a ſeizure and confiſcation.

9. May it pleaſ your *Highneſs*; *In* France, *one parcel of goods found a ſhip-board, and conſigned to an enemy, confiſcates all the ſhip and goods. In* Spain *and in* Holland, *one barrel of Butter or a caſe of Piſtolls conſigned but as a preſent to a friend ſhall confiſcate both ſhip and goods. And your humble Subject hopes, the ſame Law that is civil for them beyond the Seas to judg and put upon our Merchants and their Ships and Merchandize there, ſhall not bee held in* England *to be an uncivil Law, and a breach of* Jus Gentium, *when it is but the ſame meaſure of Juſtice which hath been in this Buſineſs adminiſtred to Forrainers here, which Forrainers adminiſter to our Merchants beyond the Seas? And this is a known truth in many Merchants caſes, that had not ſo much Juſtice in* Spain, *as wee have given to Forrainers here, even in theſe their ſilver Ships.*

Here

Here follow the ſeveral Witneſſes, Examinations and Proofs againſt the Silver Ships, (*Sampſon*, *Salvador*, and *George*) according to the Original Records.

Mr Joachim Peesler, *Chirurgeon upon the great* Sampſon, (Otto George *Maſter*, *above* 36 *years of age*) *teſtifieth*; *viz.*

1. That as they were at *Cales*, they took in all their Lading of Silver, the moſt of which was brought in by night; amongſt the reſt, 40 barrs of Silver loaden by the order of a *Portugees* at St *Lucars*, and conſigned to his Brother (a Jew dwelling in *Amſterdam*).

2. When they had been ten daies at ſea, the Purſer was ordered by the Captain to go into the Fore-caſtle, and take his Book and blot out all the names of the *Hollanders* and *Zealanders*, and, in their place, to inſert abundance of other names: After which, they looked it over, and found fault with ſome names that remained unaltered, ſaying, *They were too well known*; ſo hee put other ſtrange names in their rooms. Then they examined it again the third time, and found ſome names that they thought were too well known in *England*; ſo hee daſht out their names, and put in others in their rooms; and then cauſed them, after the third time of Examination, to bee written out fair.

And hee ſaith, That the Purſers Book that is now to bee ſeen, is that which is written out fair, ſince the three alterings of the Original Book, by blotting out ſeveral *Hollanders* names; the original blotted Book being not to bee found.

3. There were 4. barrs of Silver (as they lay at *Eriff*) brought out of the Hold; and by reaſon they were too big to bee carried away, they were put into a barrel of ſalt by the Steers-man and another: three of which barrs are yet aboard, for want of an opportunity to convey them a ſhore; but the fourth is carried a ſhore.

4. When the Silver was taken in at *Cales*, they agreed to ſign ſeveral Bills of Lading for *Oſtend*, though they were conſigned to *Amſterdam* (as is well known to the above-ſaid *Joachim Peeſler*); for hee heard Laders themſelvs ſay at *Cales*, That though the Bills of Lading were ſigned for *Oſtend*, yet the Silver was to bee ſent to *Amſterdam*.

5. Hee ſaith, That at *Cales* hee would have been freed from the ſhip *Sampſon*; for that the Maſter would not tell him to what place hee was bound: whereupon the Maſter told him, That if hee would go for *Amſterdam*, hee might continue his ſervice aboard; for that the ſhip ſhould firſt go for *Amſterdam*: but afterwards hearing of the Warrs between *England* and *Holland*, the Maſter told him they were bound for *Oſtend*.

6. Hee ſaith, That out of the *Elias*, and two other ſhips, (of which were Maſters, *Claes Peterſon*, and *Daniel Ferrine*, all belonging to *Holland*) ſeveral parcels of ſilver were brought aboard the *Sampſon* in *Cales* road, and remained aboard the *Sampſon*, when ſhee was taken by the *Engliſh*; the ſaid *Joachim* being aboard the *Elias*, when the ſilver was thence ſent aboard the *Sampſon*.

7. Hee

7. Hee ſaith, That the Steers-man, *Peter Naut*, brought on ſhore from the ſhip *Sampſon* a parcel of ſilver, about the bigneſs of a large Sugar loaf, which they well knew did belong to one *Daniel Ferrine*, a Maſter of a ſhip in *Amſterdam*.

I. D. *Joachim Peeſler.*

Dated *March* 21. 1652.

Wee underwritten do witneſs, That the above Articles were affirmed to bee true by the ſaid Joachim Peeſler, *who ſubſcribed the ſame in our preſence.*

VVill. Reymes,
I. Carleton,
Jonathan Symonds.

THO. VIOLET.
A true Copie.

Joachim Peeſler, *ſomtime Chirurgeon upon the Ship* Sampſon, *now riding at* Eriff, *whereof is Captain* Otto George.

MAketh oath, that the ſaid *Otto George*, meeting him in the ſtreet, called him Villain, and gave him manie other opprobrious words, and came toward him, and laid hold upon a weapon the ſaid *Otto* had about him, and part drew the ſame; whereupon, one that was in Company with the ſaid *Otto George*, held his arm, and would not ſuffer him further to approach the ſaid *Joachim*; whereupon the ſaid *Otto* replied, that hee ſhould catch him on the other

ſide: And the ſaid *Joachim* doth verily beleev, if the man had not held the ſaid *Otto George*, that hee had then and there wounded him.

Jonathan Symonds *maketh oath, That hee hath declared the whole ſubſtance of what is above written in Dutch to the ſaid* Joachim Peeſler, *who affirmeth the ſame to bee the whole truth; and hee ſaith, that hee hath declared to him, the ſaid* Joachim, *the ſubſtance of the oath hee is to take.*

I. D.

THO. VIOLET.
A true Copie.

This quartel did ariſe upon the Confeſsion of *Joachim Peeſler* (Chirurgeon of the ſhip *Sampſon*) when *Otto George*, the Captain of the Ship *Sampſon*, had heard that hee had diſcovered the truth for the State, concerning the altering of the Dutch Bils of lading in this Ship; and *Otto George* and the Spaniards malice was ſo great to *Joachim Peeſler* for making this diſcovery, that (I have heard it credibly reported) they poiſoned him ſhortly after, and then reported hee died of the French Pox.

Without all doubt, theſe Papers that were flung into the Sea, were the true and original Bills of Lading made in *Spain*.

1. *Jacob Elaes* teſtifieth, that ſo ſoon as they came into the Downs, and the Maſter gone to *London*, that the Steerſman, *Peter Naut*, took up a bundle of writings, and tied them firſt to an Iron Barr, and then threw them into the ſea. And the ſaid *Jacob* knoweth this to bee true for; hee delivered the Iron to the Steerſman, and ſaw him tie it faſt, and throw it into the Sea.

2. Since the ſaid Ship was brought into the River of Thames, there hath ſeveral conſiderable quantities of ſilver been carried out of the Ship, particularly as they lay at *Eriff*, ſeveral

ſeveral ſilver bowles and diſhes, 16 ſilver trenchers, two ſilver ſaltſellars, 6 great ſilver diſhes, about 7 or 8 bags of pieces of Eight, which were carried out by night, and packed in canvas that ſo they might make no noiſe. And that *Otto George* and the Steerſman knew of the unlading of them; for the moſt part was carried to *Otto George's* lodgings.

3. There is brought on ſhore four ſmall bags of pieces of Eight, being the proper goods of *Claus Peterſon*, Skipper and Burger of *Amſterdam*.

4. That when they were at *Cales*, upon their firſt loading of goods, the Captain told them, They ſhould firſt go for *Amſterdam*; but afterwards hearing of the Warrs between *England* and *Holland*, the Maſter told him, They were bound for *Oſtend*.

5 The Steerſman *Peter Naut*, hearing what I had declared in flinging the writings over-board, asked mee, Whether or no I had given in ſuch teſtimony: to which I anſwered, I had; and would juſtifie it: whereupon the ſaid Steerſman, *Peter Naut*, ſtruck mee on the face, that I bled; and ſo the ſaid Steerſman went out of the room, without further denying the truth thereof.

6. *Peter Naut*, the Steerſman, brought on ſhore from the *Sampſon* a parcel of ſilver about the bigneſs of a Sugar-loaf, which hee knew belonged to *Daniel Ferrine*, a Maſter of a Ship in *Amſterdam*.

I. D. *Jacob Eliares.*

Dated *March* 21. 1652.

Wee underwritten do witneſs, That the above Articles were affirmed to bee true by the ſaid Jacob Eliares, *who ſubſcribed the ſame in our preſence.*

I. Carleton,
Will. Reymes,
Jonathan Symonds.

THO. VIOLET.
A true Copie.

[*There was many ſcore of thouſand pounds ſtoln out of theſe Ships, while the ſilver lay in the River, by Dutch and others; and had it not been unladen but by the State left on ſhip-board, before this time it would all have been (in all likelyhood) ſtoln away.*]

The

The Teſtimony of Richard Scot, *taken this* 15 *of* December 1652.

WHo ſaith, That in *September* laſt there lay a ſhip, called the *Prophet Elias*, belonging to *Horn* in *Amſterdam*, and (to his beſt knowledg) bound for *Holland*; the Skipper of the ſame ſhip died at *Cales*; and being dead, the Deponent ſaith, That the Owners of this ſhip, being part owners of the *Sampſon*, did ſell the ſaid ſhip to ſome Spaniſh Merchants at *Cales*: at which time, there was taken out of the ſhip the *Elias* (by the men and boat of the *Sampſon*) a parcel of money, containing fifteen or ſixteen bags, and four or five bags of Cocheneel, and brought it on board the *Sampſon*; where (to farr as this Deponent knoweth) it is ſtill remaining.

Richard Scot.

Witneſs,

James Reynolds,
Jonathan Symmonds,

I. D.

THO. VIOLET.
A true Copy.

BArnard Claeſon, of *Groeningen* in *Weſtfryezland*, ſaith, That hee is 20 years old, and that hee hath been aboard the *Sampſon* nine moneths and nineteen daies, and that hee came firſt aboard at *Talloon*, (ſhee being taken by *French*-men) and from thence to *Genoa*, where ſhee took in moſt part of her Lading; and from thence went to *Ligborn*, where they took in a ſmall parcel of Goods more; And that their end in going to *Ligborn* was, to look for two *Holland* men of Warr there, to conduct them to *Cales*, where they lay three or four moneths for the ſilver Fleet;

And that at *Cales* hee knows there were taken in *Dutch* goods, (by the Skippers acknowledgment) but after the rumor of the Warr between *England* and *Holland*, the Skipper ſaid, That hee had ſent a ſhore all the *Dutch* goods; but, to this Deponents beſt knowledg, there went not above three or four parcels on ſhore: And ſaith, that hee ſuppoſeth theſe Goods were pretended to be ſent on ſhore, upon the accompt of our Differences; And hee further ſaith, That when they were in *Cales*, before they were Laden, they ſaid they ſhould go for *Holland*; but after they had taken in the ſilver; then they gave out, that they were bound for *Oſtend*; And hee further ſaith, That moſt part of this ſilver was taken in by night in ſmall parcels; And ſaith, That the Goods they took in at *Genoa* were delivered at *Cales*; And ſaith, That there was a very great quantity of Goods aboard the ſaid ſhips, when they were reported to go for *Holland*; And that hee knoweth not that the ſaid Goods were laid on ſhore again.

December 20. 1652.

Bernard Claſon,

Thomas Angel,

The ſubſtance aboveſaid is verbatim acknowledged by Tho. Angel,

THO. VIOLET.

In preſence of us

James Reynolds,

Jonathan Symmonds.

A true Copy.

April

April 18. 1653.

The Teſtimony of Barnard Claſon, *about the age of* 22 *years,*

SAith, Hee was taken aboard the *Sampſon*, (*Otto George* Maſter) at *Tolloon* in *France*, and ſailed with him from thence to *Genoa*, and to *Allicant*, ſo to *Malaga*, then to *Cales*, where at firſt hee gave it out hee went for *Amſterdam*; and not onely the Captain, but the Steerſman ſaid the ſame.

Hee further ſaith, That hee heard a Merchants man ſay to the Steerſman, hee had two Barks of Ox or Cow hides, that were to go for *Amſterdam*; and asked the Steerſman if their ſhip was bound for *Amſterdaam*; to which the Steerſman anſwered, Yes, they were bound for *Amſterdam*; but after hearing of the Warrs between *England* and *Holland*, then they gave it out they were bound for *Oſtend*.

I. D.

Barnard Claſon.

THO. VIOLET.
A true Copie.

The Certification or Information of John Perrin, *one of the Ships company of the Vice-Admiral of the Ships now under arreſt, which pretend to bee of* Hamborough, *called the* Salvador, *as followeth:*

IMprimis, The ſaid *John Perrin* (being about 32 years of age) doth certifie, That hee being an Engliſh man, born at *Tonge*, neer *Sittingbourn* in the County of *Kent*,

That hee beeing about his occaſions at *Cades* in *Spain*, (where the aforeſaid ſhip Laded) hee was entertained by the maſter of the ſaid *Salvador*, for wages, (as they pretended) to go for *Oſtend*: and coming homewards, (as the Ships company was at prayer) one *Thomas Thomaſon*, an Italian Paſſenger in the ſaid ſhip, demanded of a Spaniſh merchant, Whither the ſaid ſhip was bound? to which the ſaid merchant replyed, That they intended for the *Downs*, there to take in a Pilot; And ſaid, that they would from thence go to *Oſtend*; And that the moſt part of the goods were to go for *Amſterdam*: Alſo, that at the ſame time, when the ſaid *Salvador* came from *Cades*, there were ſeven ſhips more came from thence with her; And that he maſters mate of the great *Sampſon* told him the ſaid *John Perrin*, that three of the ſaid ſhips were going to St *Mallows*, and four of them to *Oſtend*; whereof five of the ſaid ſeven ſhips are here in the River of *Thames*.

This John Perrin *lives at* Feverſham *in Kent, when hee is in* England.

per me *John Perrin.*

This Paper was delivered to mee December 14. 1652. *by* Mr Richard Pitts *of the Tower; In the preſence of*

I. D. John Reynolds.

THO. VIOLET:
A true Copie.

The

The Declaration of Philip Brown *concerning the* Ship Sampſon, *ſaid to bee of* Lubeck *Nov.* 23. 1652.

SAith, that hee was ſhipt in the ſaid Ship at *Talloon*, about the beginning of the ſummer; from whence the Ship ſailed to *Genoa*, and from thence to *Ligborn*, where they expected to bee conveyed by two *Hollanders* (who were gon the night before they got thither) which ſhould have conducted them to *Cales*; where, when they arrived, they lay ſeaven weeks: and this deponent ſaith, that in that time hee took in by night *for* 16. *or* 17. *nights together ſeveral parcels of ſilver*; and hee ſaith further that (being one night walking upon the deck with the Maſters mate) the ſaid *Brown* askt him whether or no the ſaid ſhip with her lading would not bee Prize to this State, in caſe it ſhould bee taken by any of the Parlaments Fleet: Hee auſwered, that hee thought the Plate would prove *Prize, by reaſon that moſt part of the Money was returned for goods out of the* Weſt Indies, *which were ſent thither by the* Hollanders: And this Deponent ſaith further, that hee (underſtanding the difference between this *Nation* and the *Hollanders*, (being very deſirous to come for his own Country) deſired the Maſter to clear him, which hee denied, And told him, that unleſs hee would go with him to the Port whether hee was bound, hee would pay him no wages; but hee would not confeſs whether hee was bound: Bnt the realon why this Deponent left the ſaid ſhip was, becauſe hee heard, by all Circumſtances, that they were bound for *Holland*.

Philip Brown.

Witneſs
James Reynolds.
J. D[illegible]

THO. VIOLET.
A true Copie.

Wedneſday the 30th. *day of* March 1653.

John Marſhall a Waiter on board the *Sampſon*, *Otto George* Maſter, declareth, that on *Monday* laſt the ſaid *George* came aboard the *Sampſon*, and ſhortly after fell into diſcourſe with this Affimant, and one *William Sharp*, another Waiter aboard, and told them, that hee was queſtioned concerning a good quantety of *ſilver that was ſaid to bee taken away out of the ſaid ſhip; And then ſaid, for my part I never had away but* 400 *pieces of Eight, which was my own money, and my plate for my own table. Tis true* (*ſaid hee*) *there were three barrs and an half barr of ſilver, under my Cabbin, which lay there after the* Engliſh *had ſeized the ſaid Ship, and by my direction, the Steerſman took them from thence, to diſpoſe of them in ſome ſecret place,* And took an Hogſhead, and filled it with Salt, and hid the three barrs and an half amongſt the Salt; and afterwards the Cook, having occaſion to uſe ſom ſalt, went to fetch ſome out of that Hogſhead, and there hee found the ſilver aforeſaid: And now (ſaid the ſaid *Otto George*) the half barr is miſsing, but for the three Barrs they ſhall bee forth comming. And then added (which hee had alſo ſaid divers other times) that if the Ships and Lading ſhould bee made Prize, hee would bee anſwerable, or elſ hee would bee hanged, or they ſhould have his life for it. And this, or to this effect, the ſaid Mr *George*, at the time and place aforeſaid, ſpake and declared freely, and of his own accord, to the parties aforeſaid in the *Engliſh* Tongue.

John Marſhall. *William Sharp.*

I. D.

THO. VIOLET.

A true Copie.

An

An Information given to the Commiſsioners for Dutch *Priſes*, December 27. 1652.

YEſterday, being the 26th of *December* 1652. I *Humphery Faircliffe* a Waiter for the *Cuſtome* houſe, on board the Great *Sampſon*, now riding at *Eriffe*, had ſome diſcourſ with the Cooks mate, who told mee, hee intended to com up to the Captain of the ſaid Ship, as this day, who (ſaid hee) is in *London*, to ask him for ſom money; and that if hee would not give him money as hee had given other folk, *viz.* the Steerſman, the Scrivan, the Gunner, the Cooper, and *Jacob* the Cabine Boy, and many others; that then hee would go up to the *States*, and diſcover ſo much as would make the goods and Ship Prize altogether: and would declare no more then what hee had heard with his ears and ſeen with his eyes.

Hee ſaid, hee heard the Boatſwain ſpeak to the Steerſman between Deck, and ſaid if an *Engliſh* Ship did meet with them, and knew that the Silver was *Holland* goods, they would take it for Prize. And the Steerſman did make anſwer, ſo they would, and the Ship too. And another ſtanding by ſaid, the Ship was too great to go into *Oſtend*: *To whom hee anſwered, that they intended to lie without till the Boyers came from* Holland *to fetch away the Silver: and then the Ship being lighter they could go into* Oſtend.

Hee ſaid alſo, that hee ſaw them where they had beſtowed all the Silver, and that it lay a baſt the Maſte, but the Ship ſwimming too much by the Sterne, they brought a great deal of the ſilver and laid it on both ſides before the Maſte.

And hee further told mee, that all the Silver is Hollands *goods and more of the other goods, as Hides.* And when hee had ſo ſaid, *Peter* the Boy came in and interrupted us, other-

wiſe I had known more of his minde at that time.

Hee alſo told mee, that for a month together, whileſt they were at *Cales*, they knew no other *but they were to go for* Holland; but afterward, when the News came that the *Engliſh* and the *Dutch* were fallen out, that then hee ſaid, they took the goods out of the *Holland* ſhip they were in, and gave it out, they were to carry the goods to *Oſtend*.

All this was ſpoken and done on the day and year before named.

And on Tueſday the 28 of *December*, 1652. I met again with the Cook's Mate aforeſaid, and hee told mee, that hee had received ten peices of Eight of his Captain, and now hee would go aboard again.

And one *Eraſmus*, who belongeth alſo to the ſame ſhip, ſaith, that hee had got money of the ſaid Captain, and hee would not go aboard any more.

Humphery Faircliffe.

Humphrey Faircliffe *made oath of the truth of that which is contained in this Paper, the* 28th *day of* December, 1652. *before mee*

Tho. Exton.

THO. VIOLET.

A true Copie.

The

The Information of Stephen Puckle *Merchant.*

THis *Informant* ſaith, that about the 30th of *November* laſt, *ſtilo novo*; being then in *Holland*, and travelling in the Skute from *Delph* to the *Hague*, (there being in the Boat divers *Dutch*-men of quality, dwelling in *Delph*,) hee heard them diſcourſe about the taking of Ships by the *Engliſh*; eſpecially the taking of the laſt Plate ſhips, now under the Notion of *Hamburgers*. In which Diſcourſe one of them (being one of the Lords of *Delph*, and a Member of the Eaſt *India* Company there,) did confidently affirm to the reſt of the Gentlemen, that the ſilver on board the *Hamburgers*, now in cuſtody of the *Engliſh*, *did belong to ſeveral* Dutch-men *of* Amſterdam *and* Harlem: And further ſaid, that although it might bee pretended, that the ſilver did belong to *Hamburgh*, yet at laſt it would fall upon their own heads, his reaſon being this, That the *Engliſh* were ſubtil enough to finde out the ground of the buſineſs.

Febr. 14. 1652. London.

Steephen Puckle.

Witneſſed by
William Randall, *Clerk to the Commiſſioners.*
Edward Birch.
J. D.

THO. VIOLET.
A true Copie.

The States *Generals Letter*: *The* Original, *under the great* Seal *of* Holland, *is in the Court of Admiraltie.*

THe *States* General of the *United Provinces*: Faithfull and welbeloved; That which wee have reſolved to day, concerning the protecting and defending of theſe Ships bound from *Spain* towards the *United Netherlands*, which are exſpected, you will ſee out of the incloſed Extract of our Reſolutions; according to the Contents thereof, you are to govern your ſelves, wherwith concluding, wee recommend you to God's protection.

E. Hooleck

In the Hague. 15 *Sept.* 1652.

By order and appointment of the ſaid Lords States *General in the abſence of the Griffer.*

J. Sprouſon.

To our faithfull Friend *Witte Cornelis De Witte* Vice-Admiral of *Holland* and *Weſt Frieſland.*

Dominica, 15th Sept. 1652.

UPpon what hath been preſented by the Lords Deputies of the Province of *Holland*, in the Aſſembly after deliberation had, It is reſolved, that in purſuance of their high and mighty Reſolution of the 31 of *Auguſt* laſt paſt, do declare by theſe, that the *Vice-Admiral de Witte*, and the *Vice*-Commander *de Ruyter* ſhall bee written unto, That the ſhips comming from *Spain* towards theſe *United Netherlands*, and exſpected home, ſhall not onely bee protected againſt the *Engliſh*, but againſt all others whomſoever, who would offer to damnifie them.

E. Hooleck.

An

An Extract out of the REGISTER of the ſecret Reſolutions of the High and Mighty Lords, the States General of the United *Netherlands*.

Die Sabbati, Auguſt 31. 1652.

THere being produced the ſecond time in the *Aſſembly*, the Report of the Lord *Verbolt* for the Sea affairs, in purſuance of their Reſolution of the 26th Currant, They have peruſed and examined the Letter of the *Colledg of Admiralty at* Amſterdam, *written from thence the* 24 *of the ſame moneth*; *together with a Petition, ſigned by a good number of Merchants of the ſame Town, in the behalf of themſelvs and others likewiſe intereſſed in the Spaniſh Trade, concerning the ſecuritie and bringing in ſalvo the Ships and Silver which is expected out of Spain*; *That the Commander of the Fleet of this State ſailing, do convoy aſwell the* Oſtend *Ships as the* Hamburgers *ſhips laded with Silver, in caſe they ſhould refuſe to it.* Whereupon, after deliberation held, it was reſolved, That there ſhall bee a Letter ſent to the rere-Admiral, *De Rutter*, that in caſe they in the ſaid Channel ſhould meet any *Oſtend* ſhips, or *Hamburgers*, coming (as aforeſaid) laden from *Spain*, they ſhall convoy theſe ſhips at this conjuncture of time; *viz.* the ſaid *Oſtend* ſhips to the coaſt of *Flanders*, and the others into this Countrey; Although it bee not according to their former Inſtructions, whether they would or not, or would not conſent to it.

H. Bevering.

This agreeth with the ſaid Regiſter in the abſence of the Graffer, J. Sprouſon.

Theſe Original Warrants and Orders of the States General, and Petition of the Merchants of *Amſterdam*, were taken in a *Dutch* ſhip that was going with them to *Cornelius de Witte*, vice-Admiral of *Holland* and *Weſtfriezland*, and brought to *Dover* to MR *Vincent Delabarre* and MR *Thomas Delavale*, merchants there, before they came to the vice-Admiral of *Holland*; who, finding them to bee of great Concernment and ſervice to the State, acquainted Your Supplicant therewith; and they ſent them up to the Lord *Bradſhaw* and Counſel of State, to bee made uſe of for the ſervice of the Common-wealth; to their great Commendations for their Fidelity to this Nation in this particular.

An Extract *tranſlated out of a High Dutch Letter from the* Hague, *bearing date the* 15th *of* Novem. 1652.

THere was a Report the other day at *Amſterdam*, the *Hague*, and here, That the *Engliſh* had taken our *Spaniſh* Fleet; which made many look very dolefully, That at *Amſterdam* 30 *per cent.* was offered for Enſurance, but 50 *per cent.* was demanded. But this is found to bee an Apocrypha, eſpecially if wee may beleev the report which is come from *Antwerpt*; for the Letters

Letters which came thence, of the 14th inſtant, do mention, That nine of the ſaid ſhips were got to *Dunkerk* and *Oſtend*, which had the moſt part of the money in them; Wee do long (with fear) for the confirmation.

I. D.

P. Cglandrin.

So that although the Port bee *Dunkerk* or *Oſtend* where theſe ſhips pretended to unlade, yet the Adventurers and Owners are of *Amſterdam*. And this you ſhall ſee cleerly confirmed out of ſeveral Papers of the States Generall, upon the Petition of the merchants of *Amſterdam*, in the behalf of themſelvs and others, intereſſed in the *Spaniſh* Trade. There were above thirty other witneſſes, all paſſengers in theſe ſhips, which I brought daily to the Admiraltie to Mr *Budd*, the States Proctor, to bee legally examined in the Court of Admiraltie, who could and would have diſcovered the whole bottom of the Spaniards frauds in the claiming of this Silver: But through the neglect of Mr *Budd*, and the craft and vigilancy of the Claimers, and the Spaniſh Ambaſſadors Secretary, the witneſſes that I would have examined for the State, (being moſt of them Paſſengers in theſe ſhips, this voyage from *Spain*) they had monies given them, and were packed away out of the Nation, before they were examined in the Admiraltie for the State: Of which abuſe and injurie to the State, I heavily complained to the then Counſel of State, but the Counſell was diſſolved two daies after they had made an Order for the ſtrict examination of this Buſineſs, which was about the 20th of *April* 1653. Mr *Budd*, the States Procter, was too great with the Spaniſh Ambaſſadors Secretary. And that was the reaſon why my witneſſes were not all examined in the Admiralty, but let paſs beyond the Seas without examination.

In the Regiſtry I finde, amongſt many other proofs, this following.

IN a Letter to Mr *Samuel Wilſon* from Mr *James Wilſon*, Agent for the Parlament at *Cades*, dated *October* 19th *new ſtile*, 1652. This day goes away ſeveral ſhips bound (as they give out) for *Oſtend*; and Bills of Lading made thither, but the Port is for *Amſterdam*: There goeth amongſt them 7 or 800 *Potaccoes* of Tobacco, as neer as wee can gueſs.

[*This was written out of* Spain *by the Parlaments Agent* Mr James Wilſon, *who is now in* London (*as I am informed*); *and, no doubt, can give a reaſon of his writing the ſame to* Mr Samuel Wilſon, *the Commiſſioner for Prize Goods.*]

In the Regiſtry of the Admiraltie.

BErnard *Claſon*, *John Perrin*, and *Thomas Angel*, Paſſengers in the *Salvador*, *Sampſon* and *George*, confeſs, That there were eight Ships in one Fleet, when they came from *Cades*: And though they were to go to *Oſtend*, moſt part of the goods were to go to *Amſterdam*.

The like doth ſeveral other Witneſſes confeſs; And that theſe three ſhips ſet ſail from *Cades* 19th of *October* 1652. And when theſe ſhips were a lading, they were bound for *Amſterdam*: And when they heard of the Warr between Us and *Holland*, then they gave out they were for *Oſtend*.

Several

SEveral humble Propoſals I made to Doctor *Walker*; and from him to the Committee of the Counſel of *State* appointed to take an Accompt of your Supplicant touching this Buſineſs, for ſending of Commiſsioners into *Spain*, to examine the Laders in *Spain*, concerning the the Claims of this Silver: which is the common way they do it, not by way of *Mandamus*, but by Intreaty, according to the Cours of the Civil Law beeweeen all Countries who have Amity one with another, This is daily done: Which had they ſent Commiſsioners, *There is not one of the* Spaniſh *Merchants that are nominated in the Bills of Lading in the Court of Admiralty, that durſt have owned the Tranſporting of Silver out of* Spain, *for it is loſs of Life and Eſtate in* Spain, *to Tranſport Silver (if you confeſs it, or bee taken doing it) And whether wee had Peace or Warr with* Spain, *the Silver had been all the* States: *For what ſilver belonged to* Holland, *the* Dutch *they could not Claim, by the laſt Articles of Peace, And what the* Spaniard *Claimed heer, by Merchants, would have all been denyed in* Spain; *for no man there would confeſs the Tranſporting Treaſure: And if the Bills of Lading and the Laders were denyed to bee true in* Spain, *the* State *had done their work.*

I have ſtated this buſineſs at large, to ſhew the great Expence, trouble, hazard and pains, the hard and difficult wayes I found out; I made uſe of Sea-men that were Paſſengers, Merchants, *Engliſh*, Strangers, all ſors of people, and all intereſts, to effect this ſervice, I took pains night and day.

And I moſt humbly ſay, if I bee impowered by your Highneſs *to have a full Inſpection into the Frauds of the Accomptants and Treaſurers of this* Nation *with power to act as Remembrancer, And to have the ſame power (as Doctor* Walker *gave mee in the* Admiraltie) *to inſpect into all manner of proceedings of* Committee men *and Accomptants and Frauds of the* Nation, *as aforeſaid, I will moſt humbly undertake (upon the peril of my life)*

to bring your Highneſs *in many hundred Thouſand Pounds: Provided I may have juſt reward and encouragement for what I have done already.*

Upon my humble Petition to your Highneſs *and the* Counſel *for my ſatisfaction for the ſtaying the Silver Ships, The* Counſel of State *made this order.*

Wedneſday, 16 January, 1652.

ORdered, the humble petition of Thomas Violet, *with the Papers annexed bee referred to Generall* Montague *and Colonel* Sidenham, *to bee by them conſidered of, And the fact, with their opinion reported to the* Counſel.

Henry Scobell *Clerk of the* Councel.

These Papers annexed to my *Petition* are the Originall *Affidavits* of my Expenſes and Charges in this Buſineſs, and Warrants from Doctor *Walker* and the *Counſel* to require mee to do this Service: and they remain now in Mr *Jeſſop's* cuſtody.

Tueſday, 22 January, 1655.

ORdered that Mr Strickland *bee added to the* Committee *to whom the Petition of* Thomas Violet *is referred.*

Henry Scobell, *Clerk of the* Counſell.

Upon

Upon theſe Orders *of the moſt Honorable* Counſell *I writ this Letter enſuing.*

A Copie of my Letter to the Lord *Bradſhawe.*

May it pleaſe your Honor,

SInce the Order for the taking up the Accompts of this Nation, I have found in Mr *John Corbet*'s Cuſtody (hee being one of the Committee for *Salop*,) three of my Bonds of 2000 pounds, for the Payment of one Thouſand Pounds to mee *Thomas Violet*; and the *State* never received Penny for them. Whereupon, I have Petitioned his *Highneſs* and the *Counſel of State* for theſe three Bonds (as part of my ſatisfaction) and Mr *Corbet* hath been ſent to by Mr *Scobell*, and was with the Committee Yeſterday, and confeſſed that hee had the Bonds, and that the *State* never received Penny of them. This, Mr *Corbet* told my Lord *Strickland* and Colonel *Jones*, and that hee would deliver them unto mee if hee had the *Counſels* Order. I have likewiſe Petitioned the *Counſel*, that, for the preſent, I might have five hundred pounds, in part of my ſatisfaction; which money I laid out in the Proſecution of the ſilver Ships, *Sampſon*, *Salvador*, *and George*. And this I have proved upon the Oaths of Five men: And Dr *Walker* and the Commiſsioners for Prize goods have ſent theſe *Affidavits* up to the *Counſel* for my ſatisfaction. And theſe *Certificates* and *Affidavits* remain ſealed together in Mr *Jeſſop*'s cuſtody. And I had the *Counſel of States* faithfull promiſe (but chiefly and above all, I relyed upon Your *Honor* for the Reſtoration of my Eſtate or the Value) the *Parlament* having taken from mee to the value of above Eleven Thouſand Pounds in Houſes, Lands, Bonds, Moneys and Offices; when by Gods law nor the law of this

Nation, at the time when they took away my Eſtate, I had not forfeited one penny. If it had not been for my proteſting againſt the Diſcharge of the Silver, and my proſecution of that buſineſs, the Silver had all been let ſlip out of the Nation. I moſt humbly beeſeech your Honor to acquaint Mr *Scobell* of my ſeverall ſervices; and deſire him, that hee bee carefull to draw up my order for my bonds, that I may bee enabled to ſue and proſecute them, as freely, as if they had never been under Sequeſtration. And that I may have, for the preſent, my monies I have expended in this ſervice againſt the Silver Ships. It is a lamentable Caſe, my Uſage, for mee to bring the *State* nere four Hundred Thouſand Pounds, And to bee put to Petition for the monies I laid out of my purſ. At the *Counſel of States*, and at Doctor *Walkers* Entreaty, I imployed people to do this ſervice, as I can make it appear under his hand. My condition (I humbly conceiv) is not to bee matched, I having done ſo good Service, and been ſo ill requited. (It will make all men afraid to truſt to *Engliſh States mens* promiſes.) If I would have betrayed my truſt, and my Country, (I take God to witneſs) I was ſeveral times offered ten thouſand Pounds of ſome of the Claimers of this Silver: Which had I done it, I need not either to have ſtayed in this Country, or to have petitioned for my Bonds or Charges.

Your Honors *moſt humble and*

Obbiged Servant

THO. VIOLET.

The

The Lord Bradſhaw's *Report on the ſide of this Letter, written with his own hand:* viz.

I Muſt needs affirm, That it appeared to the late Council of State, that Mr *Violet* did very good ſervice to the Parlament and Common-wealth, touching the Ships mentioned in this Letter, and deſerved good acknowledgment and ſatisfaction for it, as being very inſtrumental in diſcovering the Dues to the State, and finding out frauds in this and other particulars: for which, in thoſe times, hee was thought worthy of Conſideration.

February 7. 1655. *John Bradſhaw.*

For this his Juſtice in certifying the Truth, I give his Honor moſt humble thanks.

I Preſented this Letter and Certificate to ſom of the Honorable Council; who, when they had read it, replyed, They wondred my Lord *Bradſhaw* and the Council of State did not give mee ſatisfaction when I did this ſervice; ſaying, They could have done it: and (if they would) they might have kept their promiſe; they then had power enough to do it.

TO which I humbly anſwer; My agreement with the Lord *Bradſhaw* and the Council of State was, That I ſhould bee paid eleven thouſand pounds for this ſervice, out of the firſt monies the State coyned of the ſilver in theſe ſhips, after I ſhould by good and legal witneſs diſprove the *Spaniſh* Ambaſſadors Claim; Or I ſhould bee reſtored to my eſtate in Offices, Lands, Bonds, Money, and Houſes the Parlament had taken from mee, with all my dammage. *Now* (may it pleaſ your Highneſs) *neither the Lord* Bradſhaw *nor the Council, all the time after*

their agreement with mee, could pay mee; neither did I desire it, before it was due; for I was to bee paid my monies out of the same monies which were then aboard the Ships: For although by my discovery and protest, the Councill of *State* stayed the silver; which was the 17th of *December* 1652. Yet all the time after of the Parlament and Council of States sitting, which was to the 20th of *April* 1653. the suit against these silver ships and their silver and lading went on in the Admiraltie; and my witnesses some of them examined in the Admiraltie, though many other witnesses I would have examined more then I did get to bee examined, but could not have them. And there was no publication till after the 20th of *April* 1653, and then the power of the Old Council of State was taken from them, and the silver (though stayed all that time, from *December* 1652. to *April* 1653.) remained a ship board, though both the Commissiones for Prize Goods, and my self often times, made the Council of State acquainted with the daily Imbezilments of the Silver in these ships.

May it pleas your *Highness*, Upon the dissolving of that Parlament and Council of State, I received new Orders and directions from your *Highness*'s most honorable Counsel, commanding mee to proceed and present to them all frauds and abuses concerning this silver. And when I presented to your *Highness*'s Counsel my humble desires, and told them what agreement I had made with the Old Counsel of State, which was, That I should receiv twelv pence upon every twenty shillings which was paid to the State out of these silver ships for my discovery, till the summ of eleven thousand pounds was paid mee.

After I had attended your *Highness*'s Counsel several daies for my Answer, the right honorable Colonel *Sidenham* and Colonel *Jones* (for Answer to my humble Petition for the said Allowance) told mee, the Councils pleasure was, and they required mee in the Councils name to proceed, and that I should have from the Council all my charges,

and

and an honorable Reward for my pains and hazzard, expence and time, both for those I employed and for myself, if I did disproov the *Spanish* Ambassadors Claim to the silver aboard the *Sampson*, *Salvador* and *George*; and other particular Agreement your *Highness*'s Council would not make with your Supplicant; for Colonel *Sidenham* and Colonel *Jones* told mee, It was below the Council to make any other Agreement: and of the just performance of this, I might rest assured on.

May it pleas your *Highness*; Till I had this promise from your *Highness*'s Council, I would proceed no further, but refrained my Attendance on Doctor *Walker* (hee sending for mee earnestly to proceed, both by Mr *Doreslaus* and others) I told them, when the Counsel of State had given mee their answer, how I should bee restored to my estate, and receiv satisfaction for my disbursments I had and should lay out in this service, I would then proceed in this Business.

And upon the right honorable Colonel *Jones* and Colonel *Sidenham*'s promise to mee as aforesaid, and upon Doctor *Walker*'s earnest intreaty of mee (as appears under his hand) I proceeded in this service. And this was done since your *Highness* took the Government, by order and command of your Council of State, and at the entreaty of your Advocate Doctor *Walker*. And upon these honorable Promises (besides my former Agreement with the Old Council of State) I relyed and proceeded; whereupon, Doctor *Walker* gave mee several Warrants to the Register, to the Examiner, and to Mr *Budd* your *Highness*'s Proctor, and Mr *Doreslaus*. The Copies whereof follow; viz.

3 September, 1653.

MAster *Doreſlaus* and Mr *Bud* are now again deſired to deliver unto Mr *Violet* a Copie of the Specifications given in by the Maſters and Commanders of the ſhips *Sampſon*, *Salvador*, and *George*: as likewiſe, Copies of all the Pleadings Articulate Exhibited and admitted on the part of the Claymers of the Silver in any of theſe ſhips: And they are to go with him to the Regiſter, and Examiners Offices; and to procure him a view of all the Bills of Lading, Extracts and Exhibites, either brought into the Office, or exhibited by any Claymers: And whatever Papers are, or ſhall bee exhibited by any Claimers in the three Ships. I do, as *Advocate* for the *Commonwealth*, deſire Mr *Doreſlaus* to yeild all his endeavours and aſsiſtance, as alſo the Regiſter, Examiner, and Deputy-Regiſter in the Admiraltie from time to time to give Mr *Violet* free admittance and view of all Acts, Bills of Lading, and Pleas Exhibited, and Extracts and Papers remaining in the Regiſtry, or which ſhall come in: And to do it readily and effectually; the ſame tending to the Service of the *Commonwealth*; and being in order for preparing the Evidence fit to bee produced for the *Commonwealth*. And I do, according to the Order of the *Counſel of State* of the Firſt of September, 1653, *earneſtly deſire and Entreat* Mr Violet, and alſo the Commiſsioners for Prize goods, and their Sollicitors and Agents; as alſo, the Proctor and Sillicitors for the *State*, and every one of them, with all convenient ſpeed, ſeverally to ſet down in Writing all the Informations that they reſpectively know of, or can finde: And all the Evidences and Proofsthat may bee diſcerned or produced

If this Diſcovery had been ſo eaſily made, and had been every bodies work to have found out the *Spaniards* Frauds, I ſhould not have had theſe earneſt Entreaties from Dr *Walker*, according to the Orders of the *Councel of State* of the 1 of *Sept.* 1653. The Commiſſioners for Priſe goods have certified to Mr Secretary *Thurloe*, how active and knowing they found mee to make theſe Diſcoveries; and had I not been ſo, your Highneſs had loſt every penny of this great Treaſure,

duced on the part of the *Commonwealth*, That ſo a full Plea and Articulate Allegation may bee prepared, and the Proofs brought in for the *Commonwealth*: And no Default bee done, ſuffered, or committed.

amounting to above Three Hundred Thouſand Pounds.

3 *Sept.* 1653.

Walter Walker.

And another Warrant of Doctor Walkers *to the Examiners* Mr How, *and* Mr Arnold, viz. 1 December, 1653.

MAſter *How* and Mr *Arnold*, in the buſineſs of the three ſhips, *Sampſon*, *Salvador*, and *George*, and the Silver and Lading in thoſe ſhips, Mr *Violet* was ordered to contribute and yeild his Aſſiſtance, to bring in Evidence on the behalf of the *Commonwealth*. I did heretofore ſign a Warrant, that all the Proceedings might bee ſhewed him: Hee now deſires, that the names of all the Witneſſes already produced on the behalf of the *State*, as alſo the Allegations and matter upon which they were produced: as likewiſe, the names of all Witneſſes produced on the behalf of the Claymers; and every one of them particularly, and the Allegations and Interrogatories upon which they have been produced, might be ſhewn to him. *This that hee deſires being juſt, I deſire that you would not put him off, but let it bee done forthwith, unto himſelf, and all ſuch others as hee under his hand ſhall nominate; for hee imployes others under him in ſearching into this buſineſs. Hee will nominate none but ſuch as may bee truſted in it.* And I

Dr *Walker* knew (to his own knowledge) that I imployed many people every day in theſe Diſcoveries, ſeverall of them being often with mee, both at the Admiraltie, and at his chamber; and hee knew, I imployed none in this buſineſs, but credible perſons, as appears here under his hand.

deſire

desire you in your several places to give him and all that hee shall imploy, all ready dispatch and incouragement, that the Business of the Common-wealth may finde no obstacle. Where there is publication, you may likewise shew him the Depositions, and (I pray) let nothing that is just bee denied him.

December 1. 1653.

Walter Walker.

[Mr Simon Baldwine, Mr John Glover, Mr Thomas Lee, Mr John Gerrel, Mr Bruse, Mr Smith, Mr William Bourne, Mr Scot, *and several others*, Thomas Violet *imploied daily in the Admiralty about this Business, as* Dr Walker *and the Registers and Examiners daily see, and as appear's by the above said* Doctor Walkers *Warrant.*]

WHen I first was required by the Counsel of State to engage in this service, to assist and bee in the nature of a *Remembrancer* for this Business, my Warrant (of *December* 13. 1652) from the Counsel of State commanded mee from time to time to acquaint Doctor *Walker* (Advocate for the Common-wealth) with what I had to offer, or did desire to bee done in this Business of the Silver ships for the service of the Common-wealth. *And truely my Duty and Truth bindes mee to give* Doctor Walker *humble thanks; for I ever had his uttermost Assistance, Advice and Incouragement to further mee in this service; for hee knew I needed it, having undertaken a knotty work, and had great and mighty Opposites therein, (even such as had great Influence in the State and then Parliament) which would have had the silver then discharged; and for my staying it, they do owe mee a shrewd turn to this day.*

Doctor

Doctor Walker *made it his Business to keep the Silver here, till my Witnesses were examined. Let the Judges of the Admiraltie say what they pleas. This was a great help and incouragement unto mee in my Discoveries, and made my work so much the easier when I found his vigilancy and integrity to improve by all lawful waies and means the Common-wealths interest to this Silver, that they should not bee cousoned of this great Treasure. The like ready assistance to their power (in their several places) I must truly acknowledg I received ever from the Registers and Examiners, when I shewed them* Doctor Walkers *Warrants.* For others in the Admiralty that did not do their duties, and hindred me as much as they could (though they were the Common-wealths officers; and, by their places and duty, ought to have don that they neglected to do: God forgive them, I do; considering though they indeavoured to neglect their duties, I was so vigilant (God assisting mee) that they were disappointed of their purposes. And the Common-wealth and your Highness, by my protest and careful prosecution, got every penny of the silver in these ships *Sampson, Salvador* and *George*, which else your Highness and the Common-wealth had lost. For my doing whereof great men in the State were and are angry with mee, and manie marchants and others in the Admiraltie and elsewhere grinned their teeth at mee; yet for all their malice (through the good protection and guidance of God) they could never bite mee with their teeth though with their tongues they have back bitten mee verie liberally upon all occasions by themselvs & their emissaries. I humbly say, it is an unworthy way to say that behind a man's back which they will not say to his face. And I humbly hope now your Highness sees the true proceedings and my expence, hazard, envie and paines so clearly and particularly proved by manie witnesses, you will in your Justice pay mee what was promised mee, *viz.* the full Restoration of my Estate, with dammages; or the summ of eleven thousand pounds. For it would bee strange to all men, to have it left to posteritie,

that *Thomas Violet* (out of his zeal for his Countrey) upon the faithfull promise of the Counsel of State of *England*, borrowed five hundred pounds at Interest, and laid it out every penny to save and get the State Three hundred thousand pounds in Silver; which the State had lost, had not *Thomas Violet* prosecuted the Business, and discovered the fraudulent Claims to all this Silver, which Practices were set on foot by the then *Spanish* Ambassador, to deceive the State. The particulars at large I formerly Printed, when I stayed the Silver. 1652.

Here followeth an Attestation of my Protesting in the Court of Admiraltie against the Judges, clearing or discharging the said Silver and Ships, and against the *Spanish* Ambassadors Claims, just that Morning as they were discharging of the Ships and Silver, being the seventeenth day of *December* 1652. as appears by the Certificate of the Officers of the Mint under their hands, *viz.*

Dated at the *Mint* in the Tower of London, December 23. 1654.

Wee, whose names are here under-written, hereby Certifie all whom it may concern, that wee were present in the Court of Admiraltie that day the Judges of the Court were reported to proceed to a sentence for the Clearing or condemning of the Ships (*Salvador*, *George* and *Sampson*;) it being about the seventeenth day of *Dec.* 1652 And there wee saw Mr *Thomas Violet* the same day in that Court present a paper unto the *Judges*, which hee declared, conteined several reasons and Arguments to the *Judges*: for respiting

reſpiting their Judgment concerning the diſcharging of thoſe Ships, and ſeveral other Prizes, till hee had examined ſeveral witneſſes on the behalf of the State, to diſproov the *Spaniſh* Claimes concerning theſe Ships, at which time the ſilver was aboard theſe Ships: *After ſom time ſpent in arguing the buſineſs by* Mr Violet *in behalf of the State, the Judges ſeeming to proceed to a ſentence concerning the ſaid Prize Ships,* Mr Thomas Violet *made his Proteſt in the ſaid Court of Admiraltie againſt the diſcharge of all or any of theſe Prizes, declaring hee did it upon his own Accompt, till his Witneſſes were examined in the behalf of the State: And that the Judges, if they ſhould proceed to the contrary, ſhould anſwer it to the then Parlament and Counſel of State at their peril.* Thereupon the Court deſiſted from proceeding in the ſaid Buſineſs; and the Judges thereof required Mr *Violet* to attend the Counſel of State that afternoon about his carriage that day in the Court of Admiralty, touching theſe ſhips.

Signed { *George Brett,*
Thomas Burch,
James Hoore.

Here follow the *Affidavits* and *Certificates* o the Truth of *Thomas Violetts* Service, made by honeſt men of clear reputation, (Merchants and others) that hee imployed and were privy to the whole proceedings in the Admiralty and other parts of this Nation: and by what waies and means hee made theſe Diſcoveries, to intitle the State to this Silver, and diſ-

prove the Spaniſh Ambaſſadors and the Spaniards Claims. The *Affidavits* follow; *viz.*

John Glover of London Merchant, aged about forty years, maketh Oath, That Mr *Thomas Violet* having ſince *December* 1652. received ſeveral Orders and Warrants from his *Highneſs's* Council, and Doctor *Walker* (Advocate for the Common-wealth) to aſsiſt in the behalf of the Common-wealth againſt the ſilver Ships *Sampſon*, *Salvador* and *George* and all their Silver and lading: In purſuance of which ſervice, the ſaid Mr *Violet* hath conſtantly intreated his (this Deponents) aſsiſtance, (amongſt ſeveral other perſons which hee the ſaid Mr *Violet* imployed) for making diſcovery of the ſeveral frauds and practiſes of the Maſters of thoſe Ships, and of ſeveral other merchants, Claimers of the Silver and lading in the aforeſaid Ships, to deceiv the State by their ſeveral Claims; and alſo of the ſeveral Bils of lading, and in ſeveral other particulars: in purſuance of this ſervice for the Common-wealth, for ſeveral moneths this Deponent, with one Mr *Simon Baldwine* a merchant, who lived a long time at *Cades* and St *Lucars* in Spain, and with Mr *Violet* this Deponent and they two did view and examine all the Bils of lading, and the ſeveral pleas and Exhibits, Extracts, and all other writings and papers which were brought in and remain in the Regiſtrie of the Admiraltie concerning theſe ſhips, ſilver and lading; the Regiſter declaring that they had ſeen all the Tranſactions that was then upon record in that buſineſs, which were manie thouſand ſheets; and that the ſaid Mr *Violet* had ſeveral Warrants from Doctor *Walker* to the Regiſter and Examiners of the Admiraltie, to require them, that the ſaid Mr *Violet*, and all ſuch as hee ſhould nominate under his hand to the ſaid Regiſter and Examiner, ſhould bee impowered to make ſeveral ſearches, which hee this Depo-

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nent and the reſt did almoſt every day for about three moneths: And this Deponent further maketh Oath, That after hee and the reſt had taken ſuch obſervations and directions, as *Mr Thomas Violet* had given order concerning the marks of the ſeveral Bills of Lading, and ſeveral other particulars; both *Mr Simon Baldwyne* and this Deponent delivered the Papers up to *Mr Violet*, hee having imployed and promiſed to content us for our pains. This Buſineſs concerning the ſhips and ſilver, this Deponent came to bee ingaged in at the requeſt and entreaty of the ſaid *Mr Violet*, hee having heard how neceſſary and advantagious hee (this Deponent) ſhould bee, in making this diſcovery of the truth of this Buſineſs; For that this Deponent for many years was an Inhabitant and merchant in *Rotterdam*, and had Commerce and Trade with moſt Townes in *Holland*, where Trading was ſtirring. *And this Deponent knows manie of the marks of the Bills of Lading of theſe Silver Ships, though they pretend to belong to Spaniards, Hamburgers and Flaunders, yet they are the ſame marks as divers Merchants of* Holland *give on their goods and Merchandize; And that ſince the War with* Holland, *divers Ships and their lading have been condemned in the Admiraltie, and made prize of, which had Silver and merchandize aboard them at the time of the condemning, with the ſame markes which are in theſe Ships* (Sampſon Salvador *and* George); *And this Deponent further depoſeth, That hee knoweth the ſaid Mr* Violet *imployed* (beſides Mr Simon Baldwine) *ſeveral other people for the making theſe diſcoveries ever ſince* December 1652. *And this Deponent hath been imployed by the ſaid Mr* Violet *in this buſineſs for almoſt a year and an half in the finding out and ſearching this buſineſs; and the ſaid Mr* Violet *hath to his* (this Deponents) *knowledg, expended very great ſums of monie in proſecution thereof, to the value of above five hundred pounds, beſides all his pains, attendance and hazzard; this Deponent having heard him ſeveral times threatned and in danger of his life by ſeveral Merchants and others, Claimers of the Silver in theſe ſhips: they ha-*

ving declared in this Deponents presence, That by the said Violets *protesting in the Court of Admiraltie against the discharge of these Ships and Silver in* December 1652. *the day the Judges appointed for discharging the Ships and Silver, (And by his further prosecution against those Ships and Silver since) hee hath been and is the onely cause of hindering them of their Silver and Ships; And that they had had their Silver long since, had not* Thomas Violet *undertaken the prosecution of this Business.* And this, this Deponent hath heard affirmed several times by merchants and others, claimers, both at the Exchange and elsewhere. And this Deponent maketh Oath, That this *Affidavit* is for the affirming and justifying of Mr *Violets* pains, hazzard and service in prosecution of this Business of the Silver ships and Lading.

John Glover.

Sworn the 27th *November.* 1654. before mee

ROBERT KELLEWAY, *Master of the Chancery in Ordinary.*

THomas *Ley* and *John Gerrel* make Oath, that in *December* 1652. *Mr Thomas Violet* was Commanded by the Council of State to assist (in the behalf of the State) against the Ships *Sampson*, *Salvador* and *George*; And several times since, the said *Mr Violet* hath received warrants from his *Highness* Council, and Doctor *Walker* (Advocate for the Common-wealth) for the prosecution of that service: this the Deponents know becaus *Mr Violet* hath shown them several times the warrants upon several occasions, hee having imploied them (these Deponents) for about sixteen moneths in the assisting him to prosecute this busi-

ness

neſs concerning the Silver Ships. Beſides, to their theſe Deponents knowledg, hee did imploie eight other perſons at his charge for making theſe Diſcoveries, for above ſixteen moneths together, hee the ſaid *Thomas Violet* paying all charges of meetings, Boat-hire, and for writing and ſubſcribing all the Tranſactions for the Counſel of State and Doctor *Walker*, for Printing the ſeveral Proceedings for the Parlament and Counſel: And they, theſe Deponents, are aſſured and know Mr *Thomas Violet* could not (though hee hath been very thrifty in this Buſineſs, to have as much done for as little money as hee could) expend in this Service for the State in his proſecution of theſe ſilver Ships, hee hath expended above five hundred pounds, beſides all his hazzard, pains and time, having to their knowledg ſate up many nights and daies together to do this Service; And having contracted the envie of many merchants for ſtaying this Silver: And this *Affidavit* theſe Deponents make for ſatisfaction of all whom it may concern.

Thomas Ley.
John Gerrel.

Both ſworn the 25 of *November* 1654.

John Page.

Simon Baldwine of London merchant, aged neer 43 years, maketh Oath, that *Mr Thomas Violet* in *December* 1652. was ordered and required by the Council of State to aſsiſt in the Admiraltie, in the behalf of the Common-wealth, againſt the Silver Ships *Sampſon*, *Salvador* and *George*, and their Silver; And ſeveral times ſince hath received ſeveral orders and warrants from his *Highneſs* Council and Doctor *Walker* (Advocate for the Common-wealth) againſt the ſaid Ships and all their Silver and Lading. For the more effectual proſecution of this ſervice,

the ſaid *Thomas Violet* knowing this Deponent had lived for ſome time at St *Lucars* and *Cades*, and by that means knew the way of their Accompt, and ſhipping Goods and Silver, when the Silver Fleet returned from the Weſt *Indies*: Thereupon the ſaid *Thomas Violet*, and this Deponent, and one Mr *John Glover*, and ſeveral others, did view and examine the Bills of Lading, and their ſeveral marks, Pleas and Exhibits, Extracts and other Papers which were brought into the Admiralty, concerning theſe three ſilver Ships their Silver and Lading. Which Search Mr *Violet* was deſired to make by Order of Doctor *Walker*, in purſuance of an Order of his *Highneſs*'s Counſel, as appears by ſeveral Warrants to the Regiſter and the Examiner of the Admiraltie: And this Deponent maketh Oath, That Mr *John Glover* and this Deponent, having taken ſuch Obſervations and directions as Mr *Violet* conceived was for the moſt advantage of the Common-wealth, concerning the ſeveral marks of ſeveral Bils of Lading, (both for their ſilver and merchandize) and ſeveral other particular Obſervations; and that Mr *Violet* (to this Deponents knowledg) imployed at his own expence many other people to finde out this Buſineſs; hee having engaged to ſee mee *Simon Baldwine* and Mr *Glover* ſatisfied for our pains. This Deponent delivered *Mr Thomas Violet* the Papers. And this deponent further ſaith, That hee was imployed by *Mr Violet* for one year together, this deponent living in the houſe with him for that time purpoſely for the Tranſactions of this Buſineſs: And this deponent verily beleeveth, that *Mr Violet* (in the proſecution of this ſervice againſt the Ships *Sampſon*, *Salvador* and *George*) hath expended many hundred pounds, and that it cannot bee leſs then five hundred pounds, beſides all his pains, attendance and hazzard; this deponent knowing *Mr Violet* to ſit up many nights and daies for this Buſineſs; this deponent having given his conſtant attendance therein for about one year, to finde out the frauds of the Spaniards Claims unto and

in

in the aforeſaid Ships: Which frauds, after much ſearch, *Mr Violet* diſcovered by many paſſengers and marriners, and by other waies and means, as doth appear by many confeſsions under the hands of ſeveral people, and the ſeveral other papers in *Mr Violets* cuſtody.

Simon Baldwine.

Sworn the 17 of *February* 1653.

JOHN PAGE.

THomas *Violet* maketh Oath, That ſince the thirteenth of *December* 1652. in his (this deponents) proſecution and aſsiſting againſt the Ships *Sampſon*, *Salvador* and *George*, their Silver and Lading; hee having imploied ſeveral perſons amongſt the Sea-men and Paſſengers belonging to theſe Ships to get acquainted with them, and of ſeveral other perſons, for the ſearching out of all Records both in the Tower and in the Admiraltie; And for the tranſcribing and printing the ſeveral Tranſactions of this Buſineſs for the State; this deponent having for ſixteen moneths together conſtantly imploied eight ſeveral perſons, and ſomtimes above half a ſcore, for the effectual proſecution of this ſervice, many of them being conſtantly with him (this deponent) when hee addreſſed himſelf to Doctor *Walker* about this buſineſs: *In which ſervice this Deponent hath expended above the ſumm of five hundred pounds, beſides all his time and hazzard of his perſon. Upon this conſideration*, viz. *the Counſel of State, having in* December 1052. *faithfully promiſed this Deponent, That if hee did diſprove the Spaniſh Embaſſadors and his Agents Claims to the Silver in theſe Ships, and to prove by good and legal Witneſſes that great and*

considerable quantities of the silver aboard those Ships appertained to the Dutch, That then this deponent should bee restored to his estate or the value of it: upon the Credit of which promise, hee (this deponent) borrowed five hundred poundes to doe this service (the deponents estate being taken away from him by the long Parlament to his, this deponents, damage of above eleven thousand pound as hee (this deponent) presented to the Committe for Foraine Affairs December 1652. *And the Committee faithfully promised him (this deponent) a restoration of all his estate in kinde, or the full value thereof, for this service, if hee did disprove the Spanish Embassador and his Agents Claims to the Silver in the said Ships.*

THO. VIOLET.

Sworn Nov. 25. 1654.

John Page.

A Copy of the Commissioners of the Dutch *Prise Office Letter to Mr* Thurloe *then Clerk of the* Councel of State.

Mr *Thurloe!*

Wee have a certaine discovery, that a great quantitie of Gold and Silver hath been stollen out of the *Dutch* Prize Ships, that calls themselves *Hamburgers*; wee desire, for the service of the State, to have a warrant to bring all the Bullion in the *Dutch* Prize Ships on shore. Wee have here (inclosed) Mr *Thomas Violets* Letter to us, and proofs taken in the Office; Every hours delay of not taking the Silver a shore, is a great loss to the State

State: Wee ſinde *Mr Violet*, (the bearer hereof) verie active and knowing to make theſe diſcoveries, And hee hath don ſeveral good and great ſervices for the State already in this buſineſs, which wee deſire you to preſent the ſame to the Counſell of State, with the tender of our ſervices; wee are Sr

Your very friends and ſervants

Dated Dutch *Prize Office*,
December the 18th 1652. Sam. Wilſon:
Rich. Hill:

This is a true Copie, examined by mee
THOM. BRUCE, *Scr.*

UPpon what is here ſworn and atteſted by able legall Witneſſes, I do moſt humbly appeal to Your *Highneſs*, Whether I did not deal with the Counſel of State and the Committee for Forrain affaires, and Your *Highneſs's* Counſell as publick Miniſters in the name and behalf, of the Commonwealth: And that, (if I had not relied on their honorable Promiſs, and ſince, on Your Highnes's Counſell; whether I would have run theſe hazards, been at this Charge, hiered half a ſcore ſeveral perſons, and to have ſpent five hundred pounds, and payed Intereſt for it till this day, if I had not had the aſſurance from the State, of juſt and honorable dealing) *the Lord* Bradſhawe, *nor any one of the old* Counſel of State *were privately intereſſed in this buſineſs, with agreeing with mee for the reſtoring of my Eſtate, or the ſumme of Eleven Thouſand Pounds, if I did diſprove the* Spaniſh *Ambaſſadors and the* Spaniards *Claims, they were not, nor none of their relations were to have one penny or farthing benefit by this agreement.*

They did onely look upon the greatneſs of my ſervice and the haz-

zard, charge and difficulty I ſhould undergo: And ſome of the Counſell of State told mee, If I did prove what I undertook, I deſerved forty thouſand Pounds, for I ſaved the State all the Three hundred thouſand pounds: But if I ſhould faile in what I had undertaken, I deſerved to loſe my life. And that, if I would bee ſo raſh, to make a Proteſt againſt the diſcharge of the Silver, and, when I had done, could not prove it, I muſt ſuffer highly for it, for it was at that time to bring more ſiſts about their ears then the State could well defend themſelves from. Many of the Counſel of State, and ſome of the Commiſſioners for Prize-goods and Officers of the Mint told mee, *I had undone my ſelf if I did not prove, there was great quantitie of ſilver in theſe Ships*, Samplon, Salvador *and* George, *belonged to the* Dutch *in the* United Provinces.

Many great Perſonages told mee, The *Spaniſh* Ambaſſador would demand Juſtice on mee for preſuming to contradict what ſo great a Princes Ambaſſador affirmed to the Counſell of State, and to the Parlament, if I failed of my proofs againſt him.

Alſo, the *Merchants*, many ſcores of them would have their actions againſt mee, for their Damages, for my detaining their ſhips and ſilver upon a falſ pretence, (they having enterred a Proteſt for their Dammage in *December* 1632, for detaining this ſilver.)

And, above all, ſome of the Councel of State *told mee themſelves, if I could not prove what I had alledged to bee true, I ſhould bee taken for an Incendiary* (*and ſo they would report mee to the* Parlament?) So that, in ſeeking to get mine Eſtate, I ran a great hazzard totally to undo my ſelf.

May it pleaſe Your Highnes: In brief, I might with the ſame ſecurity have as well flung my ſelf off of Paul's *Steeple, as to have miſſed to maintain my charge, and not have diſproved the* Spaniſh Ambaſſadors Claim.

Therefore when I had made my Proteſt in the Admiralty I was forced to bee at the Charge to make out my Evi-

dence

dence and Proofs, and then fully to follow this busines, or bee undone.

The prosecution of this busines hath been to my insupportable Charge: to this day I pay Interest for five hundred Pounds I borrowed, and laid out in this busines, to bring the State in above Three hundred thousand Pounds, as appears formerly, uppon the Oaths of severall credible Witnesses. And although I was promised the summe of Eleven Thousand pounds. *Of all that summe I have received as yet (though I attended dayly the* State) *but three Bonds (which were my own Bonds) in two thousand Pounds for the payment of one thousand Pounds unto mee* Thomas Violet: *These Bonds being seized, and taken out of my sisters custody in* Holbourn *Anno* 1644, *by the* Commonsee of Shropshire,

And these Bonds I could not haue out of the *Committee* of *Salops* Custody, till I paid them forty Pounds, as appears by the Order of the *Counsel* following. So that, there is nothing that comes into a *Committees* hands of my Estate that I could yet ever get of *Scot-free.*

But I must ever humbly acknowledg John Corbet *Esq; his great Justice and favour to mee, in helping mee to my Bonds, even on those terms I had them: For which I give him humble thanks.* And if the said Committee of *Salop* will restore mee back the said forty Pounds (I have deposited in *Mr Corbets* hands for their use) now they see my faithfull Affection and Duty to my Countrey in these several particulars; I shall likewise give them thanks for their Justice, in doing mee right. Their County will bee little the' Richer for taking this Forty Pounds of mee.

The Order *of the* Counsel of State *thereupon follow,* viz.

Friday, March 21. 1655.

At the *Counsel* at *White-Hall*.

UPon reading a Report from the Committee (to whom the Petition of *Thomas Violet* was referred) praying that certain Bonds seized upon by the Committee of *Salop* may bee delivered unto him. Upon consideration of the said Report, and for that the said Bonds are ingaged for forty pounds, which the said Committee imploied for publique use, Ordered by his Highness the Lord Protector and his Counsel, That upon the said *Thomas Violets* paying unto the said Committee the said summ of forty pounds, for which the said Bonds are ingaged, That the said Committee bee required to deliver up the said Bonds unto the said *Thomas Violet*, and that hee bee at liberty to sue the same, and to take the benefit thereof as formerly hee might have done; and that it bee referred to *John Corbet* Esquire, to see the said Bonds delivered up accordingly upon payment of the said forty pounds.

Henry Scobell, *Clerk of the* Counsell.

Mr *John Corbet* I attended with this order; *March* 28. 1655. Hee was pleased to tell mee hee was to go down into *Shropshire*, and would speak with the Committee who were to receive the forty pounds, and then I should know where to pay my money, for hee told mee hee had never received Publique monies, and hee was verie unwilling to receiv any now, But upon his return, uppon my earnest intreaty and to save mee from further trouble,

trouble, hee told mee hee would receiv and keep this fortie pounds *in depoſito*, for the uſe of the Committee till hee had order from them for the diſpoſing of it. That tranſaction follows, *viz.*

MEmorandum, *That the* 24th *of* May 1656. *In obedience to the Order of his* Highneſs *the Lord Protector and his Counſel of the* 21. *of* March 1655. *I* John Corbet *Eſquire have delivered unto* Thomas Violet, *of London Gold-Smith, three Bonds: the firſt bearing date the* 6th *of* June 1638. *of eight hundred pounds, for the payment of four hundred pounds within one year after the death of the Lady* Anne Waad; *in which Bond, the ſaid Lady* Anne Waad, Charles Mordent, Philip Cage, *and* Edmund Lenthal *Eſquires, ſtand bound to the ſaid* Thomas Violet: *and one other Bond of the* 6th *of* June 1638. *in ſix hundred pounds, for the payment of three hundred pounds, within two years after the death of the ſaid Lady* Anne Waad; *in which the Perſons aforeſaid ſtand bound to the ſaid* Thomas Violet: *and one other Bond (of the ſame date) of ſix hundred pounds, for the payment of three hundred pounds, within three years after the death of the ſaid Lady* Anne Waad; *in which Bond, the Perſons aforeſaid alſo ſtand bound to the ſaid* Thomas Violet; *The ſumm of forty pounds being paid by the ſaid* Thomas Violet, *according to the ſaid Order.*

JOHN CORBET.

Witneſſes then preſent
Edward Watkins.
William Davis.
Edmund Cogan.
John Engliſh Scr.

The Lady Ann Waad *of Battels Hall in Eſſex died about* May 1643. *And the Bonds are due to mee* Th. Violet, *as aboveſaid.*

May it please your *Highness*,

OUt of your princely regard to Justice, to reliev your humble Supplicant; and to give that order and direction, that either your Supplicant may bee restored to his Estate again; with his Damages, or the summ of Eleven Thousand pounds paid him, according to the faithfull promise of the *Counsel of State*; Or any other way Your *Highness* in your great Clemency and love to Justice shall think most convenient for the just Reward of your Loyall Subject, to give him Satisfaction. (Your Supplicant having formerly at large Printed the Grounds and Reasons for his Stay of this Silver; and the severall humble propositions hee from time to time presented to your *Highness's Counsel* and Doctor *Walker* for your service.) *And your* Highness *having disposed of all this great treasure by the hands of Sr* J. Baxter, *your* Highnes's *Lieutennant of the Tower; who hath been honorably pleased solemnly severall times upon your Supplicants humble suit, to promise mee, if ever hee had a fit opportunity to acquaint your* Highnes *of the great charges, pains and attendance I had been at in this business: and that hee would faithfully and effectually do it; and present how seasonably both for the* Nation *and your* Highness *I stayed that silver in the Ships* Sampson, Salvador *and* George, when *Van Trumpe* was in the *Downes*, ready to conduct the silver home. And this appears upon the attestation of several Gentlemen, your *Highness's* Officers of the *Mints* hands, whom *Mr* Lieutennant of the Tower knowes to bee able, honest Gentlemen; And they were in the Court of Admiraltie when I stayed this silver by my Protest. I humbly refer my self to their Certificate in this Book, *Fol.* 48, and to *Mr* Lieutennant of the Tower's report to your *Highness* thereupon.

I petitioned your *Highness* in *February* 1653. to take an Accompt of these silver ships, and what I had proved in the Admiraltie: And desired, that your *Highness* Counsel would advise with Doctor *Walker* about sending Commissioners

miſsioners into *Spain*, to Examine the Claimers in *Spain*: and for to Adviſe how this weighty buſineſs might be managed for the moſt advantage of the *State*: and to vindicate the Juſtice of this *Nation* in ſtaying this ſilver in the Ships *Sampſon*, *Salvador* and *George*. This was the ſubſtance of my humble Petition.

The 3d *of* February 1653. *Your* Highneſs *referred this Petition to the conſideration of the* Counſel *to expedite the buſineſs, by Mr* J. Sadler.

Wedneſday 22. February 1653.

At the Counſel at VVhite-hall.

THe humble Petition of *Thomas Violet* to his Highneſs the Lord Protector, and by his Highneſs referred to the Counſel, was this day read. Ordered, that it bee referred to a Committee of the Counſel, *viz.* to Major Gen. *Lambert*, Lord Viſcount *Liſle*, and Col. *Sydenham*, or any two of them, to take conſideration thereof, and to inform themſelvs of the Fact, and the Claims made, and to ſtate the ſame: And in order thereunto, to ſend for Doctor *Walker*, as alſo for the Petitioner, and ſuch perſons and papers as they ſhall judg meet; and to report the ſame, with their opinions to the Counſel.

VVill. Jeſſopp, *Clerk of the Counſel.*

THe 25 of *February* 1653. Doctor *Walker* and your Supplicant attended the right honorable Major General *Lambert* and Colonel *Sydenham*; to whom

your Supplicant delivered a duplicate of many, Papers hee had formerly delivered to Doctor *Walker*, touching this Buſineſs; wherein, at large, was ſet down what was proved for the State againſt the Silver Ships; (ſom part of which Papers I have here printed, with my then humble deſires to the honorable Committee, to have Commiſsions out of the Admiralty to go into *Spain*, (as is uſual by the courſ of the civil Law) by which means the ſilver that is pretended by their bills of Lading to bee loaden by Spaniards at *Cales* and St *Lucars* aboard theſe Ships; not one penny will bee claimed of it in *Spain* by the Spaniards; for, the tranſporting Silver out of *Spain* without the Kings licenee, is loſs of life and eſtate: *And had the Claimers had the Kings licence to tranſport the Silver, that licence would have been pleaded in the Admiralty: and this is a certain truth, No man in* Spain *will make a confeſsion to hang himſelf; if they did, they would bee accompted mad merchants; ſo that all this Silver would have proved prize to your Highneſs, had wee not had a Warr with* Spain: for the truth is, theſe Spaniſh Claims were forged on board the Ships when they were at Sea; as appears by the voluntary confeſsion of *Mr Joathim Peeſler*, Chirurgeon of the Ship *Sampſon*; who ſaith, The Purſers book was altered at Sea, and all the *Dutch* names put out of the Purſers book, and other names put in, and the true book was not in the Admiralty; and the Spaniards wanted for no help in *London* to perfect their fraudulent Claims as I have ſet forth: And *Jacob Eleares*, the Cabbin-boy of the *Sampſon* ſaith, The Steerſman at the Downes took an Iron-barr and tyed a bundle of Writings faſt to it, and then flung it into the ſea. You will ſee this at large by both their own Confeſsions in this book, *fol.* 17, 20.

I alſo moſt humbly preſented the inſupportable charge and expence, the continuall hazzard of my life, and the envy I had by my ſtaying this Silver.

The right honorable Committee were well pleaſed with the accompt Doctor Walker *and my ſelf gave them touching this Buſineſs;*

ſineſs; And Major General Lambert *commanded mee to make my Petition, and to ſet down my humble deſires, and hee would ſee that I ſhould receive ſatisfaction and incouragement for this ſervice.* And accordingly I made my humble Petition, and delivered it to his Honor; but as yet (by reaſon of the multitude of great Buſineſſes) it is daily reſpited: Doctor *Walker* at the ſame time made his Report of the great expence and envie I had undergone in doing this Service; and humbly referred mee to the honorable Committee for ſatisfaction. This was about *March* 1653

This (that before I have humbly declared) ſhews to all the world the juſt grounds and reaſons the then Parlament and Counſel of State had for ſtaying the ſhips *Sampſon, Salvador,* and *George* upon your humble and faithfull Subjects diſcovery, and his Proteſt in the Court of Admiraltie, and his great expence and paines: All which hee willingly and cheerfully undertook, to ſhew his true affection to his dear Countrey, to the then Parlament and Counſel of State, and afterwards to your *Highneſs*, by ſeveral Orders and Warrants from your *Highneſs*s Counſel, and your *Highneſs*s Advocate, requiring and deſiring your Supplicant to do this: And no man of his Condition can ſhew fuller or clearer demonſtration of his duty and love to his Nation and the preſent Supreme Governors; Nor no man in *England* (of your Supplicants condition) ever brought to the Common-wealth ſo much money at one time, as your Supplicant hath done.

May it pleaſe your *Highneſs*; the Scripture ſaith, *The tree is known by his fruit*: Had I not loved my Countrey, I would not have ventured my life and eſtate (as I have done) in this ſervice, and ſate up nights and daies to do this ſervice, and imploied half a ſcore perſons at my own charge in this Buſineſs.

I moſt humbly here (upon my knees) preſent your HIGHNESS an Accompt of what hath been taken from mee *Thomas Violet*, for which I moſt humbly deſire ſatisfaction in kinde, with my dammages, or the ſumm of eleven thouſand pounds, as was faithfully promiſed unto mee by the moſt honorable Counſel of State in *December* and *January* 1652. for ſtaying the Silver in the ſhips *Sampſon*, *Salvador* and *George*, and diſproving the *Spaniſh* Ambaſſadors Claim to this Silver, which was above three hundred thouſand pounds.

1. WHen I was firſt ſent unto the Tower the 6th of *January* 1643, my mother had of mine good Bonds and Bills in her hands taken away from her at ſeveral times, to the value of one thouſand three hundred and odd pounds; Beſides many of my Papers and Accompts of great concernment to the Commonwealth; and as yet I cannot come to the knowledg who hath them: But this I am ſure of, If there had been any thing in them that could have made againſt mee, there had then uſe been made of them.

2. My mother had at another time a Privy Seal taken from her, wherein the late King acknowledged hee owed me (for my expences in diſcovering the Tranſporters of Gold and Silver) nineteen hundred threeſcore and eight pounds: which money I laid every penny out of my

own

own purſe to do the late King and Commonwealth that ſervice: and I cauſed the tranſporters of gold and ſilver to be fined in the Star Chamber at *Twenty four Thouſand pounds*, beſides ſeveral Merchants, and gold and ſilver Refiners, *viz.* Alderman *Wollaſton*, and Alderman *Gibbs*, Mr *Peter Fountain* and others: Upon their Petition to the late King, (and paying well for it) had their Pardon under the Great Seal of *England*, for ſeveral abuſes practiſed by them in their Trades, and complained of at *Whitehall* to the late King by *Sr Henry Mildemay* Maſter of the Jewel-houſe, and by ſom of the Wardens and Company of *Goldſmiths*, as will appear by the Order of the *Counſel-table*, 25 Jan. 1634.

3. The Committee of *Eſſex* put mee out of Poſſeſſion of the Mannors of *Battells* and *Patan*-Hall in *Eſſex*, as appears by their Warrants. Of which Lands I had an Extent to the juſt value of One thouſand pounds: and one *Mr Elconhead* received my rents ever ſince 1643, *Mr Philip Cage* being in poſſeſſion for my Uſe.

4. The Committee of *Shropſhire* ſeized, in my ſiſters hands, in *London*, three Bonds due to mee, in two thouſand pounds for the payment to mee *Thomas Violet* one thouſand pounds, by the Lady *Anne Wood*, *Edmund Lenthal*, *Phillip Cage* and *Charles Mordent* Eſq^rs, as appears by the Bonds reſtored unto mee back from *John Corbet* Eſq^r, 24th of *May* 1656, by vertue of your *Highneſs* and your Counſels Order of 21 of *March* 1655. And I have put theſe Bonds in ſuit, according to the power given unto me by your *Highneſs*, and your moſt honorable *Counſel*: For which Juſtice I moſt humbly am bound to give to Colonel *Syddenham*, my Lord *Strickland*, and Col. *Jones* moſt humble thanks; humbly truſting in God, that they will bee honorably pleaſed to move your *Highneſs*, and the *Council* to take that order, the reſt of my Eſtate under Sequeſtration ſhall bee juſtly reſtored: Or, that I ſhall have the ſumm to bee made up Eleven thouſand pounds paid mee, according to the faithfull promiſe of the *Council of State* 1652, for ſtaying

and intituling the *State* to the aforesaid Three hundred thousand pounds in silver, which the *Commonwealth*, (onely by my means,) had every penny of it.

5. I had the Leas of ten severall Houses, at the *Posterne* in *Little Moor-fields*; and the Tennants owed mee, when I was committed to the Tower, in arrears for rent above one hundred pounds: And for these *Thirteen* years, I received no Rent of them. But one *Mr Elconhead* hath received the Rents of them ever since.

6. *I had the Office of sealing and surveying of all gold and silver Thread and Wyer: which prevented the making of all sleight and adulterate gold and silver Thread, and Wyer, granted to mee under the Great Seal, for three Lives, from the late King; which Office cost mee Fifteen hundred Pounds (to the Lord Treasurer* Juxon, *L. Cottington, Sr* John Cook *Secretary of State, and Sr.* John Banks *the late Kings Attourney. The necessity of keeping up that Office, to prevent the dayly Cosennages and frauds of divers Silkmen, Wyerdrawers and Refiners in their making Course, sleight and deceitfull Gold and Silver Wyer and Thread: I shall at the later end of this book shew at large; having about three hundred Assayes of adulterate and course gold and silver Wyer, Thread, Spangles, Oes, &c all made and sold contrary to the Lawes and Statutes. These Assayes are in my custody, under the Hand and Attestation of Mr* Alexander Jackson *Assay-master of Goldsmiths Hall; and the several Silkmens names and shops, and dayes of the Moneth in which they sold this course, adulterate gold and silver Thread and Lace, Spangles, Wyer, &c. to the great deceipt of the* Nation *in generall.*

And, upon the Discovery of these notorious Cheats, the late King and his Counsel appointed mee Surveyor *and Sealer of the said Manufacture.) I caused all the abuses to bee laid aside: I Indicted soe offenders, imprisoned soe, caused others to stand in the Pillory, and made many of them that wrought adulterate course silver run away out of* London: *By which means I angred many cheating Wyerdrawers, Silkmen and Refiners: and the late Kings* Councel *and* Commissioners *setled such Rules and Orders, during that Re-*

gulation,

gulation, the Manufacture was all made of good ſilver, and the Coin and Bullion of this Nation preſerved; and your Supplicant was bound, to the late King, to warrant all the Manufactures either of gold or ſilver, Wyer or Thread which hee ſealed, or ſurveyed in the Office, to bee good ſilver, and to make it good to any party grieved in the Nation; as appears by my Patent under the Great Seal of England. For which Aſſurance, Surveying and Sealing, I was allowed to demand and take an half penny for every once Troy, in Wyer, Spangles, Oes, &c. I ſurveyed, and 4 pence for every pound weight Vennice, for all the Gold and Silver I ſealed with the Seal of my Office, being the Roſe and Crown.

7. I had a Grant from the late King, under his Signet, to bee Maſter-worker of the *Mint* in the Tower of *London* for my life, with the Fee of five hundred pound a year, for executing that place; which Grant was taken from my Mother, out of her Cuſtody, when I was ſent to the Tower.

8. I had one quarter part of the Lady *Willers* Farm at the *Cuſtom-houſe*, for the Importation of all gold and ſilver Thread, Hatbands, Lace, and Copper thread throughout *England* and *Wales*; which coſt mee, a little before I was ſequeſtred, above ſeven hundred pounds. And if the making gold and ſilver thread was put down in *England*, the Cuſtom of gold and ſilver thread imported would make a far greater Revenew then now it doth by the Exciſe; and the manifacture, if it bee made here, ought to bee kept to a ſtrict Regulation.

9. I ſpent in my Impriſonment in the Tower for almoſt four years above ſeven hundred pounds, and could never get to be heard, though I petitioned to the Parlament, as aforeſaid, many years, to come to a Triall, knowing my ſelf to bee innocent both by God's Law and the Laws of the Land; and above all, by the teſtimony of a good Conſcience, which hath ever ſupported mee in and thorow all theſe troubles. All this Eſtate was and is Sequeſtred,

ſtred, (but my three aforelaid bonds) to this day; beſides my Dammage for my four years Impriſonment.

10. Since I came out of the Tower, by order of the *Counſel* of State 1652. and ſince I laid out (in the Proſecution of the ſilver Ships, *Sampſon Salvador*, and *George*) above the ſumm of five hundred pounds, as appears by the Oaths of ſeverall perſons which I emploied in this Diſcovery, (as you may ſee in this book, *Fol.* 50, 51, 52, 53, 54, 55.) I borrowed every penny of this money, paying Intereſt for it at this day.) And by my Proteſt againſt the Diſcharge of theſe ſilver Ships, *Sampſon*, *Salvador* and *George*, and my Diſcoveries thereupon, by many good and legal Witneſſes, Paſſengers and others in theſe Ships: I cauſed all the Silver to become the *States*: All which ſervices I did (upon the faithfull promiſe of the Counſel of State (in *December* 1652) to reſtore mee to all my Eſtate, or the full value of Eleven thouſand pounds) being Required to do this Service by ſeverall Warrants from the Counſel of State, and at the Entreaty of Doctor *Walker*, as appears in this Book, And no other man in *England* beſides my ſelf did ever (at one time) ſave the *State* three Hundred thouſand Pounds: which (if it had not been for mee) the *State* had been cozened of every penny of it, as appears by this and my former *Narrative*.

Here followeth the Copie of the late *Kings* Letter *to the City of* LONDON.

To

To Our Trusty and Well-beloved, Our Lord Mayor and Aldermen of Our City of London, and all other Our well-affected Subjects of that City.

Charles Rex.

TRusty and Well beloved, wee greet you well; When wee remember the many Acts of Grace and Favor Wee and Our Royal Predecessors have conferred upon that our Citie of London, and the many examples of eminent Duty and Loyaltie, for which that City hath been likewise famous; Wee are willing to believe (notwithstanding the great defection wee have found in that place) That all men are not so farr degenerate from their affection to Us, and to the peace of the Kingdom, as to desire a continuance of the miseries they now feel: And therefore being informed, That there is a desire in some principal persons of that City to present a Petition to Us, which may tend to the procuring a good understanding between Us and that Our City, whereby the peace of the whole Kingdom may bee procured; Wee have thought fit to let you know, That wee are ready to receive any such Petition, and the Persons who shall bee appointed to present the same to Us shall have a safe conduct: And you shall assure all our good Subjects of that Our City (whose hearts are touched with any sense of Duty to Us, or of Love to the Religion and Lawes established; in the quiet and peaceable fruition whereof, They and their Ancestors have enjoyed so great Happiness), That wee have neither passed any Act, nor made any profession or Protestation for the maintenance and defence of the true Protestant Religion, and the Liberties of the Subject, which wee will not most strictly and religiously observe; And for the which, wee will not bee alwaies ready to give them any security that can bee desired:

And of these Our gracious Letters, Wee expect a speedy Answer from you. And so Wee bid you farewell.

Given at Our Court at *Oxford* in the nineteenth year of Our Reign, *December* 26. 1643.

By his *Majesties* Command.

GEORGE DIGBY.

[I do most humbly desire the Common Council of the Cine of *London*, to certifie your *Highness*, if ever (amongst all their Records, since the foundation of their City) they finde such a sad President as mine is; And whether that any Messenger from any former King of *England* suffered the loss of his Estate (to his damage above eleven thousand pounds) for bringing them or any their Ancestors the like Letter as I did from the late KING. And at that time (*viz.* in *December* 1643.) there was sent and came from *Oxford* the Writs weekly under the Great Seal of *England* without any Countermand: My hard usage After-ages will hardly believe, had I not Printed it to Posterity.]

I Sufferd Imprisonment in the *Tower* almost four years, for bringing up the aforesaid Letter from *Oxford* to the Lord Mayor and Common Council of the City of *London* in *December* 1643 although I had an Order from the House of Commons (as appears by their Journal Book) and a Pass from the Lord General *Essex* to go to *Oxford*; which were both procured for mee by *Mr Theophilus Ryley*, Scoutmaster General of the City of *London*, who was authorized to execute that place by the then Parliament and Common Council of *London*; and I was authorized by the said Mr *Ryley*

Ryley to do the ſame (Mr *Ryley* being impowered by the then Parlament and Common Council of *London* to hold Intelligence in any the *Kings* Quarters, as by his Orders hee ſhewed me:) Mr *Ryley* was a man of a known & approved Integritie, and in great eſteem with the then Parlament and Citie of *London* at that time, and would not have acted any thing but what was juſt and for the Parlaments ſervice, according to his Truſt. (If hee had thought it otherwiſe, and hee might have gotten a hundred thouſand pounds, upon my Conſcience) and that made mee to act this Buſineſs, to bring up the *Kings* Letter upon his Intreaty (as hee confeſſed upon his Examination;) and I juſtified my doing thereof by his Order, hee being a publick miniſter, and impowered to do it, as hee told mee. And alſo the Committee of both Nations was made acquainted with my going to *Oxford*, for the bringing up the ſaid Letter which I brought from the late King (by Sir *David Watkins* Knight, I deſired him to make them acquainted therewith, before ever I went to *Oxford*, and to have their approbation;) which Sir *David Watkins* (after hee had ſpoken with them) told mee, I had their approbation to go to *Oxford*: And all this was done before any Law or Ordinance was made or declared to forbid mee or any other to do the ſame (that ever I heard of:) And I humbly ſay, That before a law made, there is no tranſgreſſion, neither by Gods law nor Mans law. And I was not to queſtion Mr *Ryleys* power, abilities and truſt, conſidering hee acted as a publick miniſter, but to act according to his direction, ſo long as hee was in the ſaid Office of Scout-maſter, I having his Warrant and approbation for doing what I did. I have never read nor heard of ſo heavy a puniſhment as your Supplicant doth ſuffer under, before a Law made to give a man warning.

And by the Statutes of 9. *Hen.* 3. *cap.* 29. 5. *Edw.* 3. *cap.* 9. *and* 28. *Edw.* 3. *cap.* 3. No perſon (of what eſtate or condition ſoever hee bee) ſhall bee put out of Land or

Tenement, nor taken, nor impriſoned, nor dis-inherited, without being brought to anſwer by due proceſs of the Law; which I have petitioned for, by a legal trial many years, but could never obtain the ſame.

May it pleaſ your *Highneſs*, Had there been a Proclamation or Act of Parlament at that time to have prohibited mee, I ſhould have then been afraid; beſides, M^r. *Ryley* ſhould never have made mee act againſt a declared Law.

Now, forafmuch as your Supplicant having ever ſince his Inlargment out of the *Tower*, made it his daily practice to ſtudy to ſerv the Common-wealth, and doing ſuch remarkable Services (as aforeſaid) for the Common-wealth, I do moſt humbly implore your *Highneſs* moſt gracious Order for the reſtoring mee to my aforeſaid eſtate with damages, or the paying your Supplicant the ſumm of eleven thouſand pounds.

May it pleaſ your *Highneſs*, If I would have betraied my Truſt to the Common-wealth, about this Silver that was in the Ships *Sampſon*, *Salvador*, and *George*; I could have had every penny of eleven thouſand pounds paid me by the Claimers of the Silver in thoſe Ships; either in monie here, or Bills of Exchange beyond Seas: that monie would have made mee live plentifully in any part of Chriſtendom. *I do moſt humbly implore your Highneſs, that I may have ſuch Juſtice by your Highneſs goodneſs and benignity, as I may have cauſe never to repent of my being faithfull to your Highneſs and the Commonwealths Intereſt in this particular, concerning the Silver Ships, their Silver and Lading.*

May it please your *Highness*,

THe exact looking back into the *Accompts of this* Nation, *which, upon my bended knees, I here humbly have desired a strict inspection into, by approbation and authority of* Parlament, *and strict Laws to bee made, without favour or affection* (*the prosecution of this great business to bee left to uninteressed men to doe Justice.*) When this is done, it will bring the *State* in many millions of money; and leav a stock of Lands for the Publick: Which if it bee effectually, justly and strictly done, will make all after ages call this *Parlament* the *BLESSED PARLAMENT*, the true nursing fathers and builders up of the breaches and ruines of this *Nation*. It is incredible, the great summs of money that belongs unto the *State*, which particular persons have fraudulently concealed, and upon a strict search will bee discovered.

Great Sir,

THere hath been some of Your *Higness*'s Commissioners for Customes, (out of a pretended zeal to do Your *Highness* and the *Commonwealth* service) offered themselves to execute those places, without any fee upon their first undertaking; and (upon that specious pretence) turned almost all the old Officers of the *Commonwealth* for collecting of Customes and Custome business out of their places, to the totall ruine of many scores of Families thorow out the Nation (onely to make way for their one friends and relations to come into beneficiall places (which could not bee duely executed but by persons of skill and trust) *to make up many of their broken kindreds and friends decayed fortunes.*

This mischief was practised upon the old Officers of the Customes; And by the ignorance and insolency of many of these new

Commissioners and Officers the Revenues of the Customs have been much abated, and the Commonwealth *Damnified.* But upon examination of some of these pretended godly Commissioners, *viz.* Colonel *Harvey*, and Mr Alderman *Avery* the Father, (now a prisoner in the *Fleet*) and his son *Dudley Avery* (now a prisoner in *Lambeth-house*) detected and proved, before your *Highness*'s Counsel, to have cozened the *State* of several thousand pounds: The Father being intrusted as *Treasurer*, by the Commissioners of the Customs. *Many of their dark actions have been brought to light; some of them (for their bad practises and insolencies to Marchants) being generally cursed and hated in the* City *of* London, *and in all the Sea Ports of this* Nation.

May it please your Highnes, *it caused a general joy amongst all good Marchants and honest men in* London, *when these men were questioned. And when they were made to restore great summs which thy had fraudulently deceived the* State *of: It pleased all good men.*

The same just course to bee strictly now taken with all the Treasurers, Sequestrators and Committee men of the *Nation*, will make all honest men thank God, and bless your *Highness* and the *Parlament*, for the ease the good people in generall shall receiv in their taxes by shipping these Publicans and Sinners: Amongst the many swarms of them your Highness will hardly finde one relenting, repenting *Zacheus*. And for those Treasurers that have laid out the *Commonwealths* moneys in Lands, their Lands will and is by the Law of this *Nation* lyable till they have perfected their Accompts, and come out of the *Commonwealths* debt: And the like for any Accomptant that is dead, their Heirs and Executors by the Law are lyable to pay the same, if an Estate can bee found in their hands.

May it please your *Highness*, the business of calling the Treasurers of the *Nation* to a strict Accompt (as hee humbly conceiveth) can and will offend none but the guilty;

and

and they will ſtorm to ſee theſe humble Propoſals, or that any ſhould preſume to bee ſo much a true Engliſh-man and lover of his Countrey, as to petition for an accompt of theſe Treaſurers actions, either to your *Highneſs* or the *Parlament*; *For thoſe that have been juſt in their Truſt, this humble Petition will make no impreſſion on them:*

It will only concern, vex and grieve the Guilty, *and ſuch as have cozened your Highneſs and the Common-wealth*; All ſuch as cannot endure this Examination, trial and rubbing, if they winch, they are galled horſes and faulty.

But for ſuch as are juſt perſons in their Truſt, in their publick Accompts and Payments, that have none of the Common wealths Blood and Sinews (Money) converted to their private ends; nor have made themſelvs and their families rich by fraud in theſe troubleſom Times and common Calamities; there are many ſuch juſt men (no doubt) in all theſe Offices; for theſe Gentlemen (no doubt) it will pleaſ them: This ſearch and inquiſition (the ſtrickter it is) will pleaſ good men moſt, for it will purge the droſs from the gold; it will clear honeſt mens credits; it will ſeparate the ſheep from the goats; it will vindicate them and their poſteritie, that when ſo many of their Callings and Myſteries (when Inquiſition was made) were found guilty of fraud and cheating the State and Common-wealth, they diſcharged their Truſt with a good conſcience faithfully and truly.

And I hope all this number of Committe-men will bee on my ſide, for to have a ſtrict Inſpection into their Accompts, according to former Preſidents of Parlament, and by the Laws of the Land hath been formerly done.

May it pleaſ your *Highneſs*; An Act to bee revived, and to appoint the Sages and Pillars of the Land to ſee Juſtice and execution impartially done, imploying able and diſcreet perſons by your *Highneſs*s Commiſsions in every Pariſh and Countie of this Nation, to enquire (upon oath) into all Frauds and miſdemeanors; and what Perſons and Eſtates and their value, have been ſequeſtred, (what Goods and Chattels, Woods felled, money and all other

 things

things of value) since the year 1642. and into whose hands and possession the Profits came; and into the monthlie Assesments and the value of every Book of Rates, and what Commissioners signed the Books; the Accompt of the Countie particularly set down, who were Treasurers, and to give them a full charge to inspect into all the Officers of Excize and Customes, Commissioners for Prize Goods, all Treasurers and other Officers both in *London* and all other Cities, Burroughs, Towns and Ports in the Country, that have fingered the publick money, *This strictly and impartially to bee done (upon the oaths of able and discreet persons) in every Parish in* England, *will lay the axe to the root of the Tree, and grubb up by the roots unjust Committee-men and Treasurers, and all such as have defrauded your Highness and the Common-wealth: And this will bring your Highness in millions of money and ease the publick Taxes.*

May it pleas your *Highness*; From such as are true honest English-men and love their Country I look for no opposition in setting this Business on foot for calling the Accomptants and Treasurers of the Nation to Accompt; but it is the guiltie parties that will bee sure to sting mee (and they are both potent and numerous) with the venom of their tongues, which is as bad as the poison of Asps; for this Business doth touch them to the quick, and they and their Creatures will leav no stone unturned to do mee a mischief.

Therefore upon my knees I most humbly begg *your* Highness's *and the Parliaments gracious and favorable Countenance and Protection of these my true and loyal Endeavours for the Service of your* Highness *and this* Parliament; Which gracious Protection and Favour shall forever oblige your most humble and loial Subject to pray daily for all Gods choicest Blessings on your *HIGHNESS*'s Person, and on your Princely Illustrious and Glorious *FAMILY*; That all Plots and wicked Designes against your

HIGH-

HIGHNESS may bee blasted and com to naught; That your *HIGHNESS* may bee victorious againſt all your Enemies both by Sea and Land; That your *HIGHNESS* may *Protect* theſe Nations in Honour and Glory many years: And at the end of your Government and proſperous Rule here on *Earth*, your *HIGHNESS* may bee taken into the *Protection* of him that made the *Heavens*, and there to Reign with his Son for ever in eternal Glory; So praies

Your HIGHNESS's *moſt humble*

Loyal and obedient

September 1656.

Subject,

THO. VIOLET.

To His Highneſs OLIVER LORD PROTECTOR Of England, Scotland & Ireland, and the Dominions thereunto belonging.

May it pleaſe Your Highneſs!

When I heard (in *November* 1655.) your moſt Honorable Counſel was upon ſetling a way for the taking up of the Accompts in general of this Nation; and they had recommended it to your *Highneſs* for your *Highneſs*'s confirmation (thereupon divers Auditors and worthy Gentlemen

Gentlemen were nominated to inspect and take the Accomptes of some particular persons, viz. of the Commissioners of the Customs, and others) I humbly thought it my duty, living under your *Highnesse* Protection, not to neglect any opportunitie wherein I might shew my self serviceable unto your *Highnesse* and the Common-wealth: And having formerly (in *August* 1653.) humbly presented my humble Propolals to the Parlament, for calling the Accomptants of the Nation in general unto a just and due Accompt (but as the sequele proved, it was not Gods time for the then doing of it); Also I did again renew this my humble Petition to your *Highnesse* on *November* 8 1655. (*In which my most humble request, I was and am farr from charging all Treasurers, Committee men, Sequestrators, Excize-men, Commissioners of the Customs, &c. to bee all false and unjust Stewards; I humbly say, I was and am far from that*: for, I beleev, there is som good Corn amongst this great heap of chaff & tares.) My humble suit to your *Highnesse* was and is, That this heap of Chaff and Corn (the Treasurers and Sequestrators) may bee winnowed and sifted, the Chaff and Tares from the good Corn, and that a strict Inspection bee made into all their Accompts, both for Paiements and Receipts (according to the strict Rules of former times, and according to many Presidents and Acts of Parlament in several Ages) *by knowing just and unbyassed men, such as will make it their whole Business to inspect into the Frauds, and present your* Highnesse *with the Truth (without respect of persons) and how they finde each mans Actions; That so your* Highnesse (*in imitation of the great Judg of Heaven and Earth, whose Deputy you are here over us*) *may render to every one according to his works.* To such Gentlemen that shall bee approved just and faithfull in their Accompts of this Nation, your Highnesse would bee graciously pleased to set a mark of *Respect* and *Trust* upon them, for that they have been found Just in their Generation, and not tempted (as *Acan* was) with *the Babylonish Garment, the Silver, nor the Wedg of Gold.* And for the faulty

faulty Treasurers and Sequestrators, and all such as shall bee proved to have cozened the Common-wealth, in detaining or defrauding the Common-wealth of their Monies, Goods, Lands, Merchandise, &c. or by imbezling any thing of value from your Highnesse and the Common-wealth, *They may bee served as the Unjust Steward was in the 16th of Lukes Gospel and ver. 2. Give an Accompt of thy Stewardship, for thou mayest bee no longer Steward:* And to have a mark put on them never to bear any Office of Trust in the Common-wealth more; And that according to the Statute of 6. *Hen. 4. cap. 3.* Commissions may issue forth, directed to discreet and able persons, to inquire and certifie the Profits the said Accomptants have received within each Countie of this Nation; and what shall bee found to bee by them concealed and not accompted for, the said Accomptants may bee attainted of the said Frauds and Deceipts by a Jurie of Inquirie, and bee made to pay the penaltie, being treble the dammage.

This excellent Law (for the strict and just taking up all the Accompts of Sequestrators, Treasurers, Collectors of monethly Taxes, Committee-men, Excise-men, Commissioners of Customs, &c.) to bee put in execution, will bring your Highnesse and the Common-wealth in millions of money, and ease the good People in general of the Nation of their Taxes, if they pay but the Principal and Interest for what will bee found, upon a strict and just Inquirie, in your Treasurers and Accomptants hands.

A Copie of the Papers I delivered unto Your HIGHNESS Nov. 8. 1655. (viz.)

Proposals, humbly conceived for your HIGHNESS's Service.

May it pleas your HIGHNESS,

My most humble Petition for Your Service is,

THat there bee speedy order taken, that the Commissioners for your *Highness's* Prize-goods, and all others that have had private Letters of mart or Letters of Reprizal Commissioners for Excise and Customs, Treasurers of *Gold-smiths Hall, Dovey, Worcester*, and *Gurney* houses, may have no discharge from your *Highness*, till they have and shall deliver in their Accompts, and till that som especial Commissioners be appointed and fully impowered by your *Highness* to examine, hear and determine the said Accompts; And the Commissioners or anie three of them impowered to examine upon oath all such person & persons, as they shall have information, that can and will discover the several practises and frauds that all or anie the above said persons have acted concerning your *Highness* and the publick monie of this Nation, Prize ships, and Prize Merchandize; And that the Commissioners may bee impowred to send for witnesses and all accompts, books, papers, which may any wayes conduce to prove the said frauds and misdemeanors, according to a pattern of an Act

of

of Parlament in the 10th year of *Richard* the ſecond and 6. *Henry* 4. *Chap.* 3. *And that your* Highneſs *would bee pleaſed to keep a carefull eye on this buſineſs, and to command of your Commiſsioners for this great buſineſs, an exact and true accompt (without all favor) or affection of all the ſeveral frauds and miſdemeanors againſt your* Highneſs *and the Common wealth, which they ſhall finde proved unto them, and all the ſeverall names of the offenders, and their particular frauds and offences, which ſhall or may bee proved to your* Highneſs *Commiſsioners concerning all the premiſſes.*

May it pleaſe your *Highneſs*, for the Commiſsioners of the Cuſtomes, I humbly ſay, if they knewe of Colonel *Harvies* deceitfull and fraudulent practiſes, and did not diſcover them, then they are parties in the ſame Condemnation with him. *And if the Commiſsioners ſay they did not know it, nor could apprehend the ſame; then I muſt humbly ſay, they are ignorant, and not fit for their truſt and places. For they ought all of them to have an equal inſpection every week, what ſumms of money came in for your* Highneſs *accompt, and what is iſſued out. And I muſt humbly ſay, they receiv their penſion for that end, and not to ſtand as Cyphers in their Office.* If your *Highneſs* give a Command for a ſtrict and Exact proſecution of this buſineſs; It will bring you in a few Moneths manie hundred thouſand pounds.

May it pleaſe your *Highneſs*, I have formerly preſented, theſe humble propoſals to the Parlamen[t], but there was nothing don for the diſcovery of theſe offences. *The reaſon why they did not proceed, will on examination bee clearly diſcovered.* I ſhall inlarge theſe humble propoſals for your *Highneſs* ſervice, if I receiv your further direction and commands to proceed therein, humbly ſubmitting them and my ſelf at your Highneſs feet.

Your HIGHNESS's *moſt humble*
Loyal and obedient Subjeƈt,
THO. VIOLET.

[*Amongſt the names of many Worthy Perſons, I moſt humbly preſented unto your* Highneſs *that (to my particular knowledge, if they were impowered) could make great Diſcoveries unto your* Highneſs *of the Frauds of the Accomptants of the Nation, concerning the publick Treaſure. Your* Highneſs *took eſpecial and particular notice of one, namely,* Gabriel Beck *Eſquire, and your* Highneſs *commanded mee to finde him out, and that you would ſignifie your pleaſure to him what you would have done in this Buſineſs; which I did accordingly.*]

March 23. 1655.

May it pleaſe your Highneſs, I am credibly informed that one Maj. *Will. Jervis*, for the good of the Commonwealth, and for your *Highneſs* ſervice, hath preſented ſeveral frauds and miſdemeanors, practiſed by ſeveral Commiſſioners at *Drury-houſe* and other places, upon the ſale of Delinquents eſtates, Deans and Chapters Lands, the Kings, Queenes, and Princes Revenues, forging of Debenters, and ſeveral other practiſes, to the great loſs and prejudice of your *Highneſs* and this nation. And that by your *Highneſs* appointment, there are ſeverall perſons of qualitie and integritie, appointed for the hearing and finall determination of all matters concernning the aforeſaid frauds, preſented by Major *William Jervis*.

I moſt humbly deſire for your *Highneſs* ſervice, that the Commmiſsioners appointed by your *Highneſs*, may have under their care and charge the humble Propoſals I have formerly preſented to your *Highneſs* on the 8th of *November* 1655. and that your *Highneſs* would bee graciouſlie pleaſed to appoint mee *Thomas Violet*, the Remembrancer to your *Highneſs*'s Commiſsioners, for the diſcovery and proſecution of the offenders, with ſuch allowance for my

my paines, as your *Highneſs* ſhall think fit: And that your *Highneſs* would bee pleaſed to read an Act of Parlament made in the tenth year of King *Richard* the Second; of which I moſt humbly preſent you with a true Copie, for the diſcovering of all abuſes, and frauds of this Nature (as I moſt humbly have petitioned to have redreſſed) for your *Highneſs*'s profit and honor, and good of the Nation.

If your Highneſs *bee pleaſed to read the Act, it is made for the redreſs and puniſhment of all the deceipts and frauides of theſe preſent times. The wiſdom of that Parlament found this a Cordiall, to enrich the King, and eaſe the people in generall of great outrages and oppreſſions, and inſupportable charges (the very words of the Statute); and the Parlament was ſo carefull to have all perſons brought to puniſhment, that had defrauded the King and Realm, that they made it a* premunire *and loſs of any mans Eſtate and impriſonment (of what degree ſoever) that perſwaded or gave Counſell unto the King to have the ſaid Law defeated; and for the ſecond offence, to move the King to do contrary to this Act, hee ſhall loſe his life and member, as appears by the ſaid Act. &c.*

Here followeth at large the Statute of Richard the Second.

THis is the STATUTE Made at *Westminster* in the tenth year of K. *Richard* the Second. *Viz.*

KNOW ye, that (at the Reverence of GOD, and for to nourish peace, unity, and good accord, in all parties, within the Realm of England, and especially, for the common profit and ease of our people, and good governance of the same of our Realm of England, which we soveraignly desire) Of the assent of the Lords and Commons assembled in Parliament holden at Westminster the first day of October last past, were had don to vee made a Statute, aswell to the amendment of the said Governance as for the common profit of the said Realm, in the form following:

WHERE as our soveraign Lord the King perceiveth by the grievous complaints of the Lords and Commons, of this Realm, in the present Parliament assembled, that the profits, rents and revenues of this Realm, by singular & insufficient counsel, & evil governance, aswel of some of his late great officers, as of divers other persons, being about his person, be so much withdrawn, wasted, eloyned, given, granted, alienes, destroyed, and evil dispended, that he is so much impoverished, and void of Treasure and goods, and the substance of the Crown so much diminished and destroyed, that his estate, and the estate of his houl may not honorably

honorably bee sustained, as pertaineth, nor the wars, which daily aboundeth, and inviron his Realm, maintained, nor governed, without grate and outragious oppressions, and insupportable charges of his said people, And also that the good laws Statutes and Customes of his said Realm, (which he is bounden to hold and observe) bee not, nor have nor been, duly holden nor executed, nor full justice nor right don to his said people, wherby many disherisons, and divers great mischeifes, and damages bee hapned, aswell to the King, as to his said people, and to all his Realm: wherof hee to the honor of God, and for the weale of him and his Realm, And for the quietnes and Releif of him and of his people, who have ben in divers manners greatly charged, before this time, willing, with the grace of God, against such mischeifes, to provide a good and due remedy. HATH, of his free will, and at the request of the Lords and Comons, aforesaid, ordayned, made, and assigned, his great Officers, that is to say, The Chancellor, Treasurer, and keeper of his Privie Seale, such as hee holdeth good sufficient and lawfull, for the honor, and profit of him and his Realm, And moreover, of his authoritie royall, certain knowledg, and good agree, and freewill, And by the advice, and assent, of the Prelats, Lords and Comons aforesaid, in the full Parlament, in ayd of good governance of his Realm, And good and due execution of his said Lawes, And in releif of the Estate of him and his people in time to com, uppon the full trust that he hath of good advisement, witt and discretion, of the Honorable Fathers in GOD,

William Arch Bishop of Canterbury, and Alexander Arch Bishop of York, his dear Uncles Edmond duke of York, and Thomas duke of Gloucester, the honorble Fathers in GOD, William Bishop of Winchester, Thomas Bishop of Exeter, and Nicolas Abbott of Waltham, and his wellbeloved and Faithfull Richard Earl of Arundell, John Lord of Cobham, Sir Richard le Scrope & John Devoreux, hath ordained, and assigned, and deputed them, by his Letters, Patents, under his great Seal, to be of his greate and continuall Counsel, from S. Edmonds Eve the Martyr, by a whole year, next following, after the date of the said Letters Patens, to survey and examine, with the said great officers, That is to say, the Chancellor, & Treasurer, and keeper of his privie Seal, aswell the Estate and governance of his house, and of all his Courts, and places, as of all his Realm, as of all his officers, and Ministers, of whatsoever Estate, Degree, or condition hee bee, aswell within the said Hous, as without, and to enquire, and take Information, by all the wayes which to them best shal seeme of al the rents, revennues, and profits, that to him appertaneth, and be due, aswell within the Realm, as without, in any manner way or condition. And of all manner of Gifts, and Grants, alienations and confirmations, made by him, of Lands Tenements, Rents, and ymmunities, profits, Revenues, Wards, marriges, Escheats, forfettures, franchises, liberties, voydances of Archbushops Bushipprickes, Abbies, Priores, Ferines, of Howses, and Possessions, of Aliens, And of all other possessions soms, of money, goods and Chattels, and of all other things, and to what persons, and for what cauf, and how, and in what manner,

And

And namely of those persons which have taken without desert, And also all manner of Revennes, and profits, aswell of his said Realm, as of Lands, Seigniories, Cities, Towns, Castles, Fortresses, and also of all manner his other possesons, aswell on this side the Sea, as beyond, and of the profits, and emoluments, of his money, bullions, and of the tyking of Prisoners, Towns and Places, Ships, Carackes, good, and Ransoms, of warre, by land and by sea, : And of benifices and other possessions of Cardinals, Rebels, and all other aliens, and also of carrying of money out of the Realm, by the Collectors of the Pope, Procurators, of the Cardinals, Lumberds, & other persons, aswell aliens as Denizens, And of the Emoluments, and profits, coming, and rising, out of the Customs Subsides, of wools Leather, And Woolfels and of smal Custtomes and other Subsedies of Cloethes, wynes, and all other Marchandize, And of disines, quinzins, And all other subsides and charges, granted by the Clergie, and the Comons, and also of the receipt, profits and payments of the hamper of his Chancery, And of all other his receipts from the time of his Coronation, tell And of fees, wages, and rewards of officers, and Ministers, more, and less, Also of immunities, and other Rewards, And also guifts and grants made to any person by him, and by his Father, and his grand father, in fee, or for terme of life, or in any other manner And if gre or payment ber to them thereof made, and by whom, and how And in what manner. And also how much they have relea-

ſed or given, to officers or others to have their payments to what perſons how, and in what maner, And of Lands Tenements, Rents, Revenues, and forfeitures, bargained and ſold, to the prejudice and damage, of him, and of his Crown, and by whom, and to whom, how, and in what manner, And of the Sale or bargain of Tallies and Patens of ſingular profits, aſwell in the tyme of his ſaid grand-Father, as in his own time, and how, and by what perſons, And alſo of all his jewells and goods which were his ſaid Grandfathers, at the time of his death, and what, and of what price or value, and where they bee becom, and how, and in what manner, And of all Chevyences any wiſe made to his uſe, by any maner of perſons, And of all loſs and damage hee hath had, & ſuſtained, by the ſame, And by what perſons, how and in what manner; and of charters of pardons generall and eſpeciall, and alſo of the ſomes and payments and maner of expence, aſwell of his ſaid houſ, as for the ſalvation and defence of his Realms, Lands and ſeignoryes, Towns, Caſtles, and fortreſſes, and other places, on this ſide the Sea, and beyond, don and received, by any perſons, aſwell Soldiers as others, and by any manner of way, and how and in what manner, and how much they have given to have their payments; and of the concealments of rights, and profits, and by whom, how, and in what maner, and of maintainers, and takers of quarels, embracers of enqueſts, and of officers, and miniſters, made by brockage, and of their broggers, and of them that have taken the ſaid brocage, and how and in what

manner

manner, and also of all the defaults and offences that be don allwell in his said houl, as other places, and courts, aforesaid, as in all other places, within his realm of England, by any manner of persons, whereby the profit of him and of his crown hath been impaired, and diminished or the common law disturbed, delayed or other damage to him happed, giveing & committing by the same of his royall authoritie and by the advice and assent aforesaid, to the said counsellors, or any six of them, and to the great officers, full power & authority generall & especiall, to enter his said houl, & all the offices of the same, and all his other Courts & places, as often as them shall, and call to com before them, where & when them pleaseth. The Rols records, and other minuments & evidences, such as them liketh, and all the defaults, waste and excesses found in his said houl, and also all the defaults, and misprisions found in the other courts, places, officers and ministers, aforesaid and in all the other Articles, and points, above named and every one of them, And also all other defaults misprisions, excesses, falsities, deceyts, extorsions, oppressions, damages grevances, don in prejudice damage and distresse, of him and of his crown, and the Estate of his realm, in generall or speciall, above not expressed nor expressed, to amend correct, repair, redress, reform, and put in due and good estate and establishment.

And also to hear and receiv, all manner of complaints, and quarrels, of all his leiges which will sue and complain them allwell for our soveraigne Lord the King, as for them-

 selves

ſelvs before the ſaid Counſellors officers of all maner of dureſſes, oppreſſions, injuries, wrongs & miſpriſions, which may not be well amended nor determined, by the court, of the common law of the land, before uſed: and thereof to make good and due remedy, and recovery aſwell for our ſaid ſoveraign Lord the King, as for his ſaid Leige people and all the things, aforeſaid and every of them, fully to diſcuſſe and finally to determine, and thereof to make full execution, according as to them beſt ſhall ſeem, for the honor and profit of our ſaid ſoveraigne Lord the King and of his eſtate, and reintegration of the rights and profits of his ſaid crown, and better governance of the peace and laws of his Land, and relief of his ſaid people. Willing alſo that if diverſitie and variance of opinion riſe or happen between the ſaid counſellors, and officers, that the Jndgement or opinion, of the greater partie have force and hold place, as in the ſaid letters patents is fully contained.

Whereuppon our ſaid ſoveraign Lord the King, Willing that the corrections and redreſſes of the defaults, and miſpriſions aforeſaid may bee for the profit of him, and his ſaid Realm, in the form aforeſaid, put in due execution, without being broken or diſturbed, by any of the aſſent of the Lords and Commons, of his ſaid Realm, in this preſent parlament hath ordayned and eſtabliſhed: that every one of his ſaid Leiges, greater or leſs, of whatſoever eſtate, or Condition that he be ſhall bee attendant and obedient, in how much that toucheth the Articles aforeſaid, and every dependancie thereon, to the ſaid counſellors,

lors and officers, in the form aforesaid. And that every person, that shall bee judged before them: and convicte of any the defaults, or misprisions aforesaid, shall take and receiv without debate, making such correction as shall bee judged to them by the said counsellors and officers, in the form aforesaid: And that no person of what estate or condition, that hee bee grater or less shall give to the King, privily or apertly, counsell, exhortation or motion, whereby the King should repeal their power within the time aforesaid, in any point nor doe any thing contrary of his said grant, or, of any the said articles. And if any person of what estate, or condition, that hee be, doe against the Ordinance and Establishment aforesaid, or procure or doe any thing in any manner whereby the said Counsellors bee disturbed, in any point: upon the exercise of the said power, Or which exciteth or procureth our said soveraign Lord the King to do or comand, ante maner of thing whereby the power of the said Counsellors and Officers, or the execution of their said Judgments & awards to bee made in the same, bee in any point aforesaid defeated, and that duly proved by good and true Witnesses, which be notoriously holden, of good fame and condition, not suspected convenably, examined before the King, and the counsellors and officers aforesaid, any of the Justices of the one Bench or other: taken to them or other discreet and Learned in the Law, such as pleal the said Councellors and officers: shall have such pennance, that is to say, at the first tyme hee shall bee so convicted, hee shall forfeit all his

goods and chattles to the king, and nevertheleſs, hee ſhall bee imprisoned at the king's will: and if any perſon bee duly attainted in the form aforeſaid of counſell, excitation or motion given to the King, or of doing the contrary of his ſaid grant as aforeſaid, albeit the king, do nothing by ſuch counſell, excitation or motion, yet he ſhall have ſuch pennance as afore; And if it happen (which god defend) that hee ſo bear him afterward, that he bee another time attainted (as afore) of any the ſaid defaults, or miſpriſions, then the ſame perſon ſo convicted or attainted, ſhall have at the ſecond time the penance of life and of member, ſaveing alwaies the dignity pontifical and priviledges of holy Church & Clerical in all the things aforeſaid.

And that this Statute hold force & effect, during the ſaid Comiſſion only, and therefore Wee Command thee that thou do the ſaid Statute openly to bee cryed and publiſhed in Cities Burroughs, Towns and fairs, markets, & other notable places, within the Baily-wick, within franchiſes, and with out according, to the tenor and form of the ſame, Dated &c.

The Statute of *6 Hen.* 4. Chap. 3.

Made againſt the frauds of eſcheators, ſinagers cuſtomers, and other acountants that defraude the King, ordains, comiſsions to bee directed to the moſt lawfull and diſcreet perſons in every County to enquire into all frauds of accountants, who have deceitfully concealed the Kings dues: & in caſe they ſhall bee attainted, they ſhall forfeit treble damages, and their bodies to priſon &c.

May

May it pleaſe your *Highneſs*,

PEradventure ſome (upon the ſight of this Act) may alledg, this Statute was made in the Reign of a weak and unfortunate Prince, to reſtrain the diſorders of his Houſ, and to bring to Juſtice evil Counſellers, and will ſay, *God bee thanked, wee have a wiſe and victorious Protector, and a provident and frugal Counſel, and provident Officers and Miniſters under them*: I grant this a truth, and I thank God for it. But this I humbly ſay, Amongſt the exacteſt model that ever was upon earth (which was *Chriſt* and his Diſciples) there was a *Judas* amongſt the twelv. May it pleaſ your *Highneſs*, (upon examination of ſome of the Tranſactions of the long Parlament, concerning money matters, ſome particular members with ſome of their Committees, and many of their Agents, and many great perſons imploied in the Common-wealth, at this very day) there will appear to your *Highneſs* above one *Judas* in twelv, taking in all that were members of Parlament, with their Committees and Agents, ſome of them being in great places of Truſt at this day; Many of them being provident Theevs, getting from the bottom of baſeneſs and beggerie, by fraud, diſsimulation and cozenage, in every Countie, Citie and Corner of the Nation, vaſt and great poſſeſsions, both in money, lands and goods. Many of theſe men being near of kin and condition to the *Unjuſt Steward* in the Goſpel, who (when his Lord called him to accompt, becauſ hee could not dig nor delve) joins with his Lords Debtors to cozen his Lord and Maſter; and this is the true ſtate of this Buſineſs. Upon the peril of my life, this your *Highneſs* will finde to bee the true condition (upon examination) of many members in the long Parlament, many Committee-men, many Farmors of the Cuſtoms, many Commiſsioners for Delinquents Lands, many Purchaſers of Lands, many Excize-men, many Commiſsioners for Prize-Goods, and many other perſons of

all callings and conditions that have had imploiment for the publick, and have fingred the publick Treasure ever sisice the year 1640. of every condition great numbers, who (amongst them) have stoln and cozened the Common-wealth of above twenty millions of money.

May it pleal your *Highnesse*, I have ever esteemed that man a bad Bailiff or Steward, that desires to keep a confederacie and correspondencie with his Lords Tennants and Debtors, that so they may keep their Landlord and Master in ignorance, never to know the value of his estate, nor when nor how to make his improvement; but when casualties fall, to pocket up the profits themselvs, and defraud their Lord, and keep him alwaies poor, that so they may bee alwaies held usefull and necessary by their Lords and Masters, when indeed they are but jugling Knaves, and are the bain and dishonor of their Lord and Master both in his Estate and Reputation. *I most humbly say, that if there bee any against the discovery of these Abuses, your Highness will (upon examination finde them parties or near of affinity to them that have cozened your Highness and the Common-wealth.* I humbly upon my knees beg your *Highness's* pardon for these my plain and loial expressions, which proceed from the heart of one that daily praies to God for your *Highnesse's* peace, safetie and prosperitie.

Your Highness's *most dutifull*

and legal Subject,

THO. VIOLET.

May it pleaſ your *Highneſs*,

I Requeſted Mr *Kelleway* to deliver into your *Highneſs*'s own hand this Buſineſs in a written parchment, and a written ſheet of paper annexed thereunto; it conteining a Buſineſs (in this conjuncture of time) very neceſſarie for your *Highneſs*'s peruſal and obſervation (as your Supplicant humbly conceiveth) praying your *Highneſs* to ſignifie your pleaſure to your Supplicant thereupon, by your Servant *Mr Kelleway*. And your obedient Supplicant and Subject (as in dutie bound) ſhall daily praie, *&c.*

April 1. 1656.

Your Highneſs's *moſt dutifull*
and obedient Subject,
THO. VIOLET.

May it pleaſ your *Highneſs*,

AN Act of Parlament now ſo effectually made, and ſo effectually proſecuted (as this Act in *Richard* the Seconds time was) would bring your *Highneſs* in many hundred thouſands of pounds, if the care of the mannagement of this great Buſineſs bee left to men of unbyaſſed Intereſts, that will ſee to the ſtrict examination and puniſhof the offenders great and ſmall; it will eaſ the people in general of many of their tares. A few Laws well executed is better then a multitude of Laws, and the execution neglected. And this Act in King *Richard* the Seconds time, appoints the Pillars of the Land to ſee to the due execution and puniſhing the offenders. And the wiſedom of that Parlament would not appoint Commiſsioners of a meaner degree, leaſt through fear or for reward Juſtice might bee blinded and over-awed (as many times it is) when ordinary perſons have the execution thereof: Great Truſt in mean mens hands is ſubject to miſcarriage.

May it pleaſe your Highneſs,

I Have delivered in to your *Highneſs* Commiſsioners for diſcoveries at *Worceſter* houſe in writing the 30th of *May* 1656, theſe Diſcoveries annexed, amounting to about the ſumme of four hundred thouſand pounds, which your *Highneſs* and the *Commonwealth* have been defrauded of, I have humbly deſired their direction to meet thereupon: and that I might have a Copie of their Commiſsion; that ſo I might bee informed, whether theſe my Diſcoveries (on the Termes and Conditions I have preſented them) bee compriſed therein: and whether any incouragement is to the Diſcoverer for ſo doing. My moſt humble Sute to your *Highneſs* is, that I may bee impowered to inſpect all and every ſuch papers, books, warrants, accompts and orders as may conduce to make my diſcoveries. And further, to examine upon Oath all ſuch perſons who can and will prove the aforeſaid Frauds. The whole premiſes (as I have humbly ſtated it to the Committee) I preſent to your *Highneſs*, and moſt humbly beg your *Highneſs* to vouchſafe your *Highneſs* gracious peruſal, it beeing (as your humble Subject conceiveth) verie much for your ſervice; and to bee pleaſed to ſignifie your gracious pleaſure therein. And, as in dutie bound, your Supplicant ſhall dailie pray, &c.

Your Highneſs moſt humble

30. *May* 1656.

and faithfull Subject

THO. VIOLET.

Here

Here followeth the Copy of the Writing I delivered in to your Highneſs's Commiſsioners.

To the honorable the Committee for Diſcoveries, ſitting at *Worceſter* Houſ.

May it pleaſ your Honors,

I Am certainlie informed by thoſe that are learned in the Lawes, That all Sequeſtrators, Treaſurers, Receivers, and all ſuch who have the *States* Tenths upon Repriſals in their hands, Committee men and all other perſons whatſoever, in whoſe hands any Monies, Jewels, Plate, Goods or Merchandize or other things of value whatſoever, belonging to the late King, the Parlament, his Highnes the Lord Protector or the Publique; The ſaid perſons, their heirs, executors and adminiſtrators, and their, and every one of their lands, goods, tenements, &c. into whoſe hands ſoever they bee converted and do come, and all other lands, tenements, goods and chattels which any other then had in Truſt, or for their Uſe, or which at any time or ever after they had power to diſpoſe of: Are all liable for the paiment and anſwering of the ſaid publique Debts and Accompts of the ſaid Treaſurers, Receivers, Seqneſtrators, and ſuch as have the *States* Tents in their hands concerning all Repriſals of Ships. And their heirs, executors, adminiſtrators, Tertennants and all others into whoſe hands the ſaid goods, lands, monies, Jewels, Merchandiſe, &c. do by whatſoever means come; Are all accountable for, and muſt pay and ſatisfie the ſame to his *Highneſs*.

May it pleaſ your honors, This being granted a Truth, the old Maxime of my Lord *Cook*'s will now at this

day prove true, *That whosoever eats the Kings goos, the feathers at one time or other will stick in his throat*: And that all persons whomsoever, whether Committee-men, Sequestrators, Treasurers, or any other persons whomsoever, his and their Estates, their Heirs, Executors and Administrators are alwaies chargeable with Debts due to his *Highness* and the *Commonwealth*, without his *Highness*'s gracious pardon. And that this is Law, there are many Judgments and Presidents in the Exchequer; which, if there bee occasion to satisfie your Honors, I will caus some learned Gentleman in the Law to produce to you Presidents and Statutes. And I also desire your patience to read my Ensuing Queries thereupon, *Viz.*

May it pleas your Honors,

I Humbly present these Queries *to you, and desire to receiv your Judgements thereupon; that so I may know whether my Discoveries are within Cognizance of your Commission, when they are Discoveries of this nature as these in my Queries I set down: All which I humbly present unto you, as being very material both for his* Highness's *service and for my self. As for my part, I intend to make your Judgments thereupon to bee my Rule (either to proceed or desist in these following Discoveries) to avoid unnecessary expence and trouble both to my self and others.*

My humble Queries *are these following.*

My Copy is not perfectly exact, and in some one or two small particulars it may differ from the Original, which I put up to the Commissioners at *Worcester* Bods.

1. When Commissioners are or have been appointed either by Ordinance of *Parlament*, or Order of the *Councel of State*, or under the Great Seal of *England*, for to take the Care and Charge of the Sale of all *Prize* Ships, and Merchandize, brought in by any of the men of Warr, of the late *Parlament*,

ment or of his *Highneſs* and the *States* Shipping, and all and every one of the ſaid Commiſsioners having allowance of Poundage, or yearly Fees from the *State* for that Service, for their care and paihs in the ſale of all or any Marchandize, Gold, Silver, Jewels, Plate, Ships and all other goods whatſoever brought in for the Uſe of the Publique: Which Commiſsioners have been appointed by *Parlament*, *Counſel of State*, or his *Highneſs*: And by vertue of that Power, Commiſsioners have acted, being all of them obliged and tied to make a true and juſt Accompt upon oath unto his Highneſs of all ſumms of money they receiv, and the juſt and true value of all Merchandize and Goods they have been intruſted with the Sale, without any fraud or mentall reſervations, ſaying onely their juſt Fees and Sallerie appointed to each of the Commiſsioners by the *Parlament* or his *Highneſs*. And theſe Commiſsioners having failed in their Truſt, whether (according to the Statute, 6 *Hen.* 4. Cap 3.) this bee within the Cognizance of your Commiſsion to puniſh the Offenders, and to cauſe them all to make a juſt and true Accompt upon oath, and to pay the *Commonwealth* what they have defrauded the *State* for what remains in their hands.

2. Whether theſe Commiſsioners (when they had their Commiſsions) have Covenanted jointly or ſeverally with the *State* to give a juſt and true Accompt to his *Highneſs* and the *Parlament*. And whether they bee guiltie all of them (that were put into one Commiſsion) if I prove the offence of ſome of them: Or whether onely ſuch of the Commiſsioners as are proved guilty, and the other Commiſsioners (though their power was all of one date, and they acted together) ſhall not bee accompteable, but every man for himſelf ſeverally to anſwer for his own particular actions and no further.

3. That if I ſhall prove ſome of the Commiſsioners for the *States* Prize Goods, HAVE ſorted out Wines, Sugars, Oyles, Wools, Fruit, ſilks, Linen, Cloth of Gold and

Silver, Jewels, Pearl, Civet, Bezer Stones, and any sorts of Commodities in anie Cellars, Ships, Warehouses, or other Places within this Nation, either by themselves, servants, Coopers, Brokers, Porters or anie other skilfull persons in Merchandize; *and when this sorting, picking, garbling, is done, to reserve a quantity more or less of thus sorted, picked, and garbled Merchandize, for the Commissioners themselves, either one or more of them, viz.* If the Commissioners or Sub-commissioners for the State make a sale of thirty thousand Pondes of goods and merchandize, more or less, there having been before Ten thousand Pondes of this merchandize sorted and garbled out for the Commissioners.

As in one Instance, Suppose 300 Tunnes of *French* Wines are the whole Parcell of Wines the *State* hath by their Commissioners to Sell, and 200 Tunns of this Wine is exposed to Sale by the *States* Commissioners, and sold by the Candle (as the usuall way is, publiquely to every man, (*And one hundred Tunns of this* French *Wines, being picked out of the choicest and principall of the whole Parcell, is reserved for a Commissioner or Commissioners for the sale of Prize goods, and these Commissioners shall pretend this small Parcell of 100 Tunns of Wines is not worth the trouble to make a new Sale by the Candle: And thereupon these Commissioners or Sub-commissioners (being intrusted to sell these Wines by the* State, *having a Fee or Sallary for the same) do, contrary to their Trust, either by themselves or their own name or names, or get friends, and use the names of others to buy the said 100 Tunns of Wines, but so that still the Commissioners have the profit of the said Wines so sold, when in truth this 100 Tunns of Wines, picked and sorted out of 300 Tunns, was realy worth, in the Market, as much as the 200 Tunns sold publiquely by the Candle for 15l, 16l, 20l the Tunn, and sometimes more: And some of the Commissioners for Prize goods have bought for their own uses the Hundred Tunnes of the choicest and pick'd Wines at the rate of 15l, 16l, 20l the Tunne, and sometimes more, which Wines have been by the said Commissioners sold to the Vintners and others at 30l, 35l, and 40l a Tunn,*

ready

ready money, when the State hath had but 15*l. and* 10*s. allowed and put down on their Accompt. This demonſtration ſerves for all their Wines, Sugars, Tobaccoes, Silks, Linnens, Salt, Civet, Bezer-ſtones, Pearls, Jewels, Wools, Oyles, Fruit and Spice, and all other Commodities brought in any the States Prizes.* Theſe merchandiſes ſorted, garbled and pickt from the groſs bulk, may bee better in the true value then the groſs quantitie of merchandiſe ſold uſually by the Candle, ſometimes 20*l.* 30*l.* 40*l.* in the hundred; and ſometimes (where goods are periſhable) half in half, there is ſo much difference in the ſorting. *And whether theſe Commiſſioners (being intruſted to ſell the States Goods at the beſt rate) could underhand buy theſe Goods themſelvs, after they have been picked and ſorted, or go partners with any that did buy, and that much under the true value, as will bee found upon examination by my diſcovery.*

4. Whether theſe things being duly proved, the Commiſſioners for Prize-goods and every one of them, are not lyable to make a true accompt to his *Highneſs*, and to ſtand charged with all the ſurpluſage of Monies they have made of all or any the Prize-goods belonging to the State and his *Highneſs*, which they have not as yet duely and truely accompted for, *and to bee ordered to deliver in upon their ſeveral oaths a juſt and true accompt of all the Merchandiſe, Jewels, Diamonds, Pearls, Civet, Beazar-ſtones, &c. that have come into their cuſtody, and what Prize Ships or Goods they ſold and had a ſhare in themſelvs,* & of the true value of all merchandiſe that hath come to their hands, and whether I may not cauſe to bee viewed all Books and Papers which I know can evidence the ſame, and thereupon produce any perſon or perſons to bee examined, to finde out the bottom of the fraud; and whether any perſon or perſons nominated to bee examined as witneſſes touching the premiſſes, ſhall bee compelled to declare their knowledg (except the partie or parties themſelvs;) and whether your Commiſsion doth impower you the Commiſsioners to give mee a full fifth part of all ſuch ſumms of money as ſhall bee paid into the

Exchequer, upon any discovery of all or any the aforesaid misdemeanors. *I humbly pray your Honors, to take notice that the Commissioners for Prize-goods always have had a great fee and allowance setled on every one of them for their pains and trouble; and therefore I conceive they are obliged to deliver in an exact and just accompt upon oath in writing of all the several ships and merchandise to his Highness.*

5. For the Commissioners of Excize, Treasurers of *Goldsmiths*-hall, Commissioners of *Drury* and *Gurney*-houses, Collectors for the *Plymouth* Duties for redeeming of poor Slaves at *Tunis* and *Argier*, &c. that have had several Ordinances and Orders of Parliament, Orders from the Counsel of State, Orders from his *Highness*, for the payment of great sums of money, as this Case is stated; (viz.) *John Doe* hath an Ordinance from his *Highness*, or formerly from the Parliament or Counsel of State, for six thousand pounds charged upon the Excise (or any other Treasury) to be presently paid or in court; (*These Commissioners have also a great Fee and Sallary for their pains, and more than that they cannot lawfully expect nor contract with* John Doe *to make an abatement of the said Debt of* 6000*l. but* (*as I humbly conceive*) *by making such a bargain for their private profit, by installing a publick Debt, and to put the profit up to their particular use, they are lyable to a Fine to his Highness, as I have proved unto you in a president done by Act of Parliament in* Richard *the Seconds time* (*as appears by the Records*;) *Commissions were granted to finde out that very offence besides to bee liable and make good all such summs of money, and dammages for forbearance, as shall bee proved they have craftily and fraudulently concealed and kept the same money from his Highness.*) As for example; the aforesaid Six thousand pounds warrant of *John Does*, the Treasurers (or some one of them) taking advantage of *John Does* necessitie, treat with him, and compound for his said Order or Ordinance which is for six thousand pounds, for three thousand pounds, more or less (as *John Doe* and the States Treasurer can agree); and *John Doe* makes his bargain

for

for more or leſs, as hee is ſtraitned in his occaſions, and as his payments grow upon him: Upon *John Does* receiving the money, hee agrees for, (it may bee 3000 l. 4000 l. or 5000 l. for his Order of 6000 l.) Hee, upon receipt of the ſum contracted for, makes a general and full acquittance and diſcharge for the whole ſumm of 6000 l. aforeſaid. My humble *Quere* to you is, *Whether this is not a fraudulent Act of any Treaſurer, Commiſſioner of the Excize, Cuſtom-houſe, and Dowry-houſe, or any other publick Treaſurer of the Nation, and every ſuch Treaſurer puniſhable, if hee deliver in unto the State the full ſumm of 6000 l. when in truth hee hath paid poor* J. Doe *but 3000 l. or the ſon* John Does *neceſſity compelled him to take?* And I humbly deſire to know of you, *Whether you have power by your Commiſſion, to ſend for* John Doe *or any other perſon that can diſcover unto you the truth*, How much juſtly of this 6000 l was paid to *John Doe*; and to examine him of the grounds and reaſons that made him (the ſaid *John Doe*) give a receipt for more money then hee received, and the time when the Treaſurer or *Treaſurers* made him his payments, and how much truly and really remaineth in the *Treaſurers* hands, which the ſaid *Treaſurer* hath fraudulently concealed and detained in his hands from his *Highneſs* and the Commonwealth; and who and what partie or parties were the Agents and Broakers (and where they dwell) to drive the bargain between *John Doe* and the aforeſaid *Treaſurers*: whether the ſaid *Treaſurers* have broken their Truſt in compounding the States debt, and putting the whole ſumm on their accompt, when they paid but part, they being the States ſervants, and receiving Fees and Sallary (for their juſt and faithfull performance of their duty in their place of *Treaſurer* or *Treaſurers*) from the Parlament and his *Highneſs*? And I know in a *Trial* in *Chancery*, between the Lord of *Holland* and one of his Stewards, who put in ſeveral ſummes of money to the full value in his accompt to ſeveral perſons, when hee had compounded his Lords debts, and the Steward was al-

lowed no more then hee really paid to his Lords Creditors: if this bee the Law for a Private man, I hope it will bee Law for his *Highneſs* and the Common-wealth.

6. There are two Reaſons which make mee humbly conceive, that the Treaſurer or Committee-man, Sequeſtrator, or whoſoever hee bee, ought to pay to his *Highneſs* the ſumm and intereſt which hee hath concealed, and is lyable to a further punishment, without his *Highneſs*'s pardon: 1. *Firſt*, becauſe every Receiver is his *Highneſs*'s Servant, and receivs a Sallary for his attendance and pains; and therefore upon that accompt ought to give a juſt accompt upon oath to the Exchequer, both of all the ſummes of money hee receivs (as a Committee-man, Commiſsioner or Treaſurer, juſtly and truly without fraud) both for principal and intereſt: if hee hath compelled the States Debter to pay intereſt, hee ought to accompt for all that intereſt to the State; the like juſt accompt hee ought to put into the Exchequer, for his juſt and real payments; and if it bee proved hee delivered in falſ, feigned, forged or *Averyen* Accompts, or put in more money on his accompt then hee hath really paid to every perſon that is nominated on his accompt: I humbly conceiv it, all former Ages have held it a high Crime and puniſhable; and I hope your Honors will do ſo now. 2. *Secondly*, As the Receiver or Treaſurer will bee ſure not to charge himſelf with more money then hee truely receivs for the uſe of the State; ſo (I humbly ſay) his *Highneſs*'s Commiſsioners for the Treaſury, nor the Barons of the Exchequer, ought not to diſcharge him for any greater ſumm then the aforeſaid Treaſurer hath truely and really paid. And this I humbly deſire your judgments in (for a greater or leſſer ſumm), and if I ſhall prove one or more Treaſurers guilde of the aforeſaid offences, whether you by your Commiſsion are impowered to give mee a full fifth part for my diſcovery of all ſuch ſummes of money I ſhall cauſe to bee paid in to the Exchequer touching the premiſſes?

7. Whether

7. Whereas ſeveral Delinquents and purchaſers of Lands, having made their Compoſitions and bought Lands, and having given ſecuritie to the Parlament or to his *Highneſs*, and have failed at the ſeveral dates of their payments; and ſo continued, ſome for years, and ſome for moneths: And the aforeſaid perſons (upon the finiſhing their ſaid payments) have accompted and paid intereſt to his *Highneſs*'s Treaſurers for all that time they forbare to pay their monies with intereſt money, over and above their Bonds they have paid in to the Commiſſioners and Treaſurers appointed to receiv their payments. My humble *Quere* is, *Whether all ſuch intereſt money (received by any Commiſſioner, as aforeſaid) ought not all to bee accompted for by every Treaſurer upon oath; and whether a fifth part of the ſaid diſcovery ſhall bee paid to the Diſcoverer?*

8. *Whether the Treaſurers for Charitable uſes (as Redemption for Slaves, Plymouth Dutch for redeeming of Captives from* Argier, Tunis *and* Tripolis, *&c. Collections for the Relief of* Ireland, Taunton, *and all other Charitable Uſes of that nature) bee within the cognizance of your Commiſſion; and that a fifth part ſhall bee allowed to any perſon that can and will make diſcovery in whoſe hands any ſumm of money is collected, as aforeſaid, and not truly accompted for, to his Highneſs?*

9. *Whereas ſeveral Lands have been illegally and unduely ſold, (viz ſome before a ſurvey or particular returned) contrary to the Commiſſioners inſtructions; And alſo by their Commiſſion, no Lands ought to be ſold till a certain ſet number of Commiſſioners were met together; which number made them a Committee: and under that Committee the ſaid perſons could not legally act as Commiſſioners, nor had a leſſer number then was appointed them by their Commiſſion power to ſell Lands or Goods appertaining to the Common-wealth, and the Commiſſioners to take a Corporal Oath before they could act as Commiſſioners, not to act contrary to their Directions and Rules ſet them: notwithſtanding the aforeſaid Rules and Inſtructions*

This is a particular Charge againſt the Commiſſioners, at Draythouſ, for ſeveral great abuſes and frauds practiſed by them, to the great dammage of your *Highneſs*, and contrary to their Truſt and Oaths.

appointed unto the Commissioners and Trustees by the Parlament and his Highness, and contrary to their Oaths, several great quantities of Lands have been sold by some few of the Commissioners privately, (before the said Commissioners number was full, or the Trustees fully impowered to sell any Lands appertaining to the State,) for many dayes meeting and contracting for Lands and Houses, when there were not so many Commissioners met together, as to enable them legally to bee a Committee, according to their Commission, and Instructions thereupon. My humble Quœrie is, to know, Whether these Sales are good in law, being sold contrary to their Instructions, and by a lesser number of Commissioners then were appointed to sell the Lands: So that many thousand pounds yearly of Deliquents Estates have been sold in reversion, which ought to have been sold in possession. And great and vast summs of mony have been reprised by some Commissioners, and the Contracters, contrary to their Trust, have received several summs of money indirectly, of several persons for their actings, as aforesaid; and have sold Lands at under-values; viz. When one man hath bid 25 years value, and could not have it, but hath gone without it; another (that hath been a friend) hath bought the same Land for 13 years value, to the great prejudice of the Commonwealth. I humbly crave your Opinions, Whether all the aforesaid frauds, or any of the said misdemeanors are within Cognizance of your Commission; And the Discoverers to have a Fifth part for all Summs of mony that shall bee caused to bee brought in to the Exchequer upon these Discoveries proposed in this Article.

10. Whether it bee within the Cognizance of your Commission, to take an accompt of all summs of monie that have been collected in the City of *London* and Lines of Communication for furnishing the Citie with Coals, and where that Stock remains? for though some men received back their monies without their Interest, after they had been deluded many years, Yet there is many thousand pounds (at this very daie) in the Treasurers hands. And

whether

whether all the Treasurers living since 1644, within Every County, City, and Borough, and have been appointed to receive great summs of monie, and other Provisions for the relief of *Ireland*, building of Churches, mending Highwaies, redeeming of slaves, and other Charitable uses, bee within the Cognizance of your Commission, and the Discoverers to have a fifth part.

11 Whereas great summes of monie remain in mens hands that have stoln Custom and Excise, and also in several Committees hands within, this *Nation*, upon the Accompt of the publique Debt of the *Nation*, and several Taxes *viz.* of 60000l, 90000l, 120000l a Moneth, and all other Parliament Taxes, whereas greater summs of monie have been (by vertue and colour of the said Ordinance) collected upon the several Inhabitants of the City of *London* and Lines of Communication, and in other parts and Countries of this *Nation*, which monies have been levied by the Sectie collectors, and paid in to the great Collectors and Treasurers, and great quantities of these monies remain in several persons hands, unaccompted for to the great Damage of his *Highness* and the Publique. I humbly desire to know, whether this Discovery bee within the Cognizance of your Commission: And the Discoverers to have a Fifth part of all summs of monie that shall be paid into the receipt of his *Highness's* Exchequer. And how I shall bee secured of my Fifth part upon all or any the aforelaid Discoveries in the aforesaid Articles, Which I humbly propoupd unto your grave judgment; *and crave your Orders and Directions thereupon, intending to, and being highly for his* Highness's *service, to have all the aforesaid Frauds strictly examined, and found out.*

I shall, and do attend this businesse; and when I shall receive your Commands or Directions how I shall steer my self in the Prosecution of this businesse: And know from you, whether all these Discoveries are within the Verge of your Commission: That then

the Discoverers of all or any the offenses aforesaid shall have one full Fifth part for his Discovery, of all summs of money due unto his Highness, and unlawfully detained, as aforesaid, I shall (upon yours Honors answer unto mee) put in several Claims to all those several Branches aforesaid.

May it pleas your Honors,

SEverall persons have withheld from his *Highness* and the *Commonwealth* (in Lands, Tenements, Debts, Duties, Monie, Merchandize, Affeerments, Goods and Chattels) the severall Summs hereunder named: which several summs of monie they have in their hands, or have converted them to their own Uses. *I have thought it convenient to conceal their name, and not print them; but to print the Summs by the Numbers, and leave a space for the names.*

Numbers.	Pounds.	Numbers.	Pounds.
I.	01500	XV.	10000
II.	01000	XVI.	01000
III.	02000	XVII.	04000
IV.	04000	XVII.	04000
V.	10000	XIX.	06000
VI.	16000	XX.	04000
VII.	20000	XXI.	05000
VIII.	06000	XXII.	05000
IX.	02000	XXIII.	20000
X.	20000	XXIV.	06000
XI.	10000	XXV.	20000
XII.	06000	XXIV.	04000
XIII.	15000	XXVII.	15000
XIV.	10000	XXVIII.	12000

Numbers.

Numbers.	Pounds.	Numbers.	Pounds.
XXIX.	12000	XXXV.	01000
XXX.	16000	XXXVI.	02000
XXXI.	04000	XXXVII.	08000
XXXII.	02000	XXXVIII.	06000
XXXIII.	02000	XXXIX.	02000
XXXIV.	06000	XL.	03000

These are the Summs of money which ſeveral Gentlemen in this *Nation*, Accomptants, Treaſurers, and others have in their hands and poſſeſsions, or have converted the ſame to their own private Uſes. And all the aforeſaid perſons ought to bee accomptable for the Lands, Tenements, Debts, Collections, Aſſeſſments, Merchandize, Goods and Chattels, to the full value they have received. And at this day the aforeſaid perſons have in their hands the particular Summs aforeſaid; which they ſtill withhold from his *Highneſs*, moſt of them contrary to their Truſt, being the *Parlaments* and his *Highneſs's* ſervants, and receiving their Sallaries, and Wages of the *Parlament* and his *Highneſs*, for their Attendance in the Exciſe Office, Cuſtome-houſe, Drury-houſe, Goldſmiths-hall, Treaſurers for the monethly Taxes, and Treaſurers for ſeveral other Aſſeſſments, monies collected for ſeveral charitable uſes, for Redemption of Slaves from *Argier*, *Tunis*, *Tripolis*, &c. Commiſsioners for ſale of all Prize goods &c. who all have had great Fees and Sallaries, and therefore ought by the Law to make a true and juſt Accompt upon Oath. And every of them have got the Publique monies, and by that means have unduely enriched themſelves with great and vaſt Poſſeſsions in Lands and Treaſure: And they withhold to this day the juſt Rights and Dues which apperrain to his *Highneſs* and the *Commonwealth*. And (in regard there is a Fifth part to the firſt Diſcoverer, that ſhall make it appear, by ſufficient proof, that any have Monies, Lands, Houſes, Goods and Merchandize, or any other thing of

Value in their hands appertaining to the *State*,) Thereupon I put in my Claim, and Charge all the aforesaid persons, to have in their Custodies the aforesaid monies, Lands, houses, goods, and Merchandize, to the values aforesaid; and desire of your *Honors*, that I may bee admitted to make my Proofs against such of the said persons as I do, and shall desire to charge; and that I may have a view and inspection into all such Books and papers which are conducing to the making of every particular Charge; and to examine witnesses, upon Oath, thereupon: *And that all persons which stand in Contempt may by your warrant bee Attached.*

Several Commissioners at *Drury*-house have by undue Practises, contrary to their Trust, damnified and defrauded his *Highness* of above Sixty thousand Pounds. The several Commissioners names, the particular Summs, and the particular Charges I humbly crave leav to have liberty hereafter to insert, referring my self to my 5th Query I herewith presented to the Commissioners at *Worcester*-house.

My humble desire is, That these Discoveries bee Registred, and the day when I delivered the same: and this Charge, with my several *Queries* annexed. I desire also, they may bee kept at *Worcester*-house, as a Record, to manifest the true grounds and reasons, why I deliver in this *Charge*.

26. *May*. 1656.

Your humble Servant

THO. VIOLET.

May it pleas your Highness,

THE High Court of Parlament *being shortly after summoned by Your* Highnes, *I did thereupon forbear, for a time, to proceed further in this Business, with the Commissioners at* Worcester-*house; being resolved (by the assistance of God) humbly to present these humble Propositions (with some additions) unto your* Highnes, *and that Supreme Court, the* Parlament; *desiring of God, so to direct mee in this Business; that, what I most humbly*

humbly propound may bee for the glory of God, and good of the Nation; *and that my Labors in this Buſineſs may bee accepted of by your* Highneſs, *and the* Parlament, *as proceeding from an humble, loyall, and true* Engliſh *Heart.*

May it pleaſ your *Highneſs*,

I Do moſt humbly offer to your *Highneſs* and the Parlament theſe further moſt humble Propoſals for your *Highneſs* and the Common-wealth's ſervice; which I moſt humbly preſent on my knees at your *Highneſs's* and the Parlaments feet; and do likewiſe humbly pray, that theſe my moſt humble Propoſals may bee confirmed by an Act of this Parlament, with ſuch alterations and additions as ſhall bee conceived by your *Highneſs* and the Parlament moſt for the honor of God and the benefit of the good people of this Nation, by eaſing them in their Taxes, and calling to accompt the Common-wealths Debtors.

1. According to the Statute of *Rutland*, made *May* 24. in the tenth year of the Reign of King *Edw.* 1. *Anno Dom.* 1282. touching the Recovery of the Kings Debts; And the Statute of 6. *Hen.* 4. *cap.* 3. made againſt the frauds and deceipts of divers Sheriffs, Eſcheators, Aulnagers, Cuſtomers, Comptrollers and others, in theſe words following; viz. *Item*, Whereas divers Sheriffs, Eſcheators, Aulnagers, Cuſtomers, Comptrollers, and other the Kings Officers, accomptable, in many parts of the Realm, do fraud and deceive our ſaid Lord the King yearly in their unlawfull and untrue accompts, concealing and reteining to their own uſe the greater part of that which rightfully ought to appertain to the King, to his great dammage and loſs. Our ſaid Lord the King (by the Advice and Aſſent aforeſaid) hath ordained, That preſently after every finall accompt given and made by the Officers and Cuſtomers aforeſaid, before the Barons of the Exchequer of our Lord the King:

The tenor of the Accompt of every the ſaid Officers from time to time ſhall bee ſent into the Counties where the ſame Accomptants bee Officers, together with Cõmiſsions directed to the moſt lawfull and diſcreet perſons, to enqu re and certifie the profits which the ſaid Accomptants have received within the ſaid Counties, in the name and to the uſe of our ſaid Lord the King by them in the manner afore-ſaid upon their ſaid Accompts, or deceitfully concealed and received to their proper uſe and profit. And in caſe that the ſaid Accomptants bee attainted of their ſaid frauds and deceipts, they ſhall incurr to our Lord the King the penaltie of the Treble of the ſame whereof they ſhall bee ſo convict, and their Bodies to Priſon, untill they have made fine and ranſom to our ſaid Lord the King, according to the diſcretion of his Judges.

Theſe excellent Laws to bee put in execution, for the ſtrict and juſt taking up all the Accompts of Sequeſtrators, Treaſurers, Collectors, Committee-men, Excize men, and Collectors of Cuſtoms, Surveyers, who have returned falſ ſurveys, and then bought the Lands according to the value of their fraudulent ſurveys, or received Bribes for making theſe fraudulent ſurveys for ſome particular perſons profit; theſe (I humbly ſay) being ſtrictly examined, will bring your *Highneſs* in many hundred thouſand pounds.

Here followeth

Here followeth many Laws of excellent uſe for the furthering of this buſineſs of calling the Accomptants of the Nation to a juſt accompt.

THe Statute of 33. *Hen.*8.*cap.* 39. Provides, that all Bonds and Specialties made to the King, ſhall bee in the nature of a Statute of the ſtaple; and alſo all Proceſs, Judgments, Executions, *&c.*

That the King, his Heirs and Succeſſors ſhall not bee debarred or delaied his juſt debts and duties againſt any as heir or hei s to any perſon endebted to him, albeit the word heir bee not compriſed in the Cognizance, Obligation or Specialty.

That the King in all his Suits for Debts ſhall recover his Coſts and Dammages.

That the Kings Suits ſhall bee preferred, and his Debt firſt paid and ſatisfied. *Magna Charta cap.*18.

That Lands entailed ſhall bee liable to the payment of the Kings Debts, And the King may recover his Debt againſt the Executor of his Creditor.

How the Kings Debt ſhall bee levyed, when his Debtors Lands ſhall come to ſeverall mens hands and poſſeſſions.

The Statute of 7. *Edw.* 6. *cap* 1. Provides ſeveral Penalties and Forfeitures to bee inflicted upon all Officers and Accomptants that ſhall conceal any Duty, and not pay the ſame in due time; And that Officers and Accomptants ſhall (upon notice) declare what money they have received and not accompted for, and upon commandment make pay-

ment of the ſame within ten daies next, after notice, upon pain or forfeiture of loſs of their Offices.

The Statute of 34. *Hen.* 8. *cap.* 2. ſets down the Forfeitures of High Collectors and general Receivers of Fifteens and Subſidies, and all other Loans and Taxes, that do not pay the money by them received to the Kings uſe to ſuch perſon and at ſuch time as hee ſhall bee appointed; And that the King ſhall at his pleaſure charge the ſaid Collector or Receiver, and their Heirs, Executors, and Adminiſtrators, with four ſhillings the pound for every moneth the ſaid monies ſhall bee laid out by them for profit, but detained and not paid within three moneths next after the receipt.

A Proclamation from his *Highneſs*, to require all Accomptants to deliver in a perfect accompt upon their oaths of their Receipts and Payments within a certain time, or elſe to ſuffer the penalty of the Law; and ſelect perſons to bee nominated to inſpect theſe Accompts, and by what Orders all monies were paid.

The Statutes of 13. *Eliz. cap.* 4. and 27. *Eliz. cap.* 3 Provides, that Treaſurers, Receivers, and Accomptants Lands ſhall bee liable for the payment of their Debts to the Queen, her Heirs and Succeſſors; And that the Queen, her Heirs and Succeſſors may ſell and diſpoſe of their lands, *&c.* and againſt whom the ſame ſale ſhall bee good; and how the Queen, her Heirs and Succeſſors may uſe the lands of the Treaſurers, Receivers and Accomptants indebted, which hee or they hath or have purchaſed in the names of other perſons, *&c.*

The Statute of 18. *Eliz. cap.* 7. Provides, that the Statute of 13. *Eliz. cap.* 4. ſhall extend to under-Collectors, Receivers and Accomptants of Tenths and Subſidies of the Clergie, to make their lands, goods, *&c.* liable for ſatisfying of ſuch monies as they have collected and received, and not paid and accompted.

And that every ſuch under-Collector and Receiver ſhall accompt in the Exchequer for his Receipt, as other Collectors and Receivers do.

The

The Statutes of 32 *Hen.* 3. *cap.* 23. and 13 *Edw.* 1. *cap.* 11. Provides, that all Accomptants that do withdraw themselvs, and have no Lands, *&c.* whereby they may bee distrained, *Then* their bodies to bee attached and imprisoned, and caused to make their Accompts.

And the punishment of the Sheriff or Goaler that letteth an Accomptant Committed escape.

May it pleas your Highnes;

AT the beginning of our late troubles, some men (having designed unto themselves to make themselves great in the midst of the common Calamities, and to fish in troubled waters) disturbed the most excellent cours of the Exchequer; and (to compass their fraudulent designs which they had craftily laid) erected Private Treasuries, as Goldsmiths hall, *Gourney* hous, *Worcester* hous, Haberdathershall, Weavers hall, *Drury* hous, Custom hous, Excise Office, Treasuries for the Publique Plate of the *Nation* at Guild hall, and infinite other places throughout this *Nation* were erected, and pettie Exchequers, where the publique monie was kept; and the publique Accounts by that means interwooven one with another, and almost all of them managed by persons equally guilty, and excessively covetous, as well City Commissioners and Treasurers, as Country Commissioners and Treasurers. So that ordinary Clarks and slight fellows being crept into imployment, to finger the publique monies, some, by buying of the Goldsmiths light and clipped monies, and then puting the said light and clipped monies amongst the publique Treasure. (It was observed by all that paid monies in to the Treasurers, that the Tellers would not receiv a clipped shilling, and when they paid it away for the *State*, their Payments were full of clipped money, which clipped money they bought of Goldsmiths, to the value of many

ſcore of thouſand pounds, and this was twenty times cull'd over and over, and now they are fain to take it in the Country, or to receiv none: The clipped monie was like a horſ in a mill, it went round; the Treaſurers would receive none, but bought it of the Goldſmith, the Goldſmiths would melt no clipped money they bought, but ſell it to the Treaſurers and Caſhiers; this was paid to the Army, they paid it for their Quarters, the Farmer payes it to his Landlord, the Landlord brings it up to *London* and ſells it to the Goldſmith at 15l, 20l, 25l in the hundred loſs, thinking it is melted, and hee ſhall never more bee tronbled with it: but the Goldſmith ſells it, as aforeſaid; and at my Gentleman's next quarter payment his money is paid him again: ſo that the *Nation* (by this trick) hath been mightily cheated by publick Caſhiers: and they have many of them gotten great Eſtates, ſome Five thouſand, ſome Ten thouſand, ſome Fifteen thouſand, ſome Twenty thouſand, ſome Thirty thouſand, ſome Forty thouſand Pounds apiece: And if theſe pettie Varlets, which were but ſervants and underlings, have gotten ſuch vaſte and great Eſtates by their craftie and fraudulent actions, being but young ſucklings, in compariſon of many of the great Treaſurers their maſters; what have theſe great Treaſurers then gotten, whoſe ravening paunches have devoured the wealth and ſubſtance of the *Nation*.

[21] *May it pleaſe your* Highneſs, *I could name them by ſcores, but that I forbear at preſent, till Juſtice do perſonally ſingle them out; for in every County, City, Corporation, and almoſt in every Pariſh in* England *and* Wales, *there is very few Pariſhes in the* Nation *without ſome of theſe Unjuſt Stewards, Committee-men, Sequeſtrators, and Treaſurers. I moſt humbly beſeech Almighty God, to put it into Your* Highneſs's *and the* Parlaments *hearts, to ſay particularly to every unjuſt Treaſurer, Committee-man, Sequeſtrator, Exciſe-man, Commiſsioner of the Cuſtomes, Commiſsioner and Truſtee for the Sale of Delinquents Eſtates, Treaſurer for the publique Plate, and every other perſon that ſhall bee proved*

to have the publick monies in his hands, as was ſaid to the unjuſt Steward in the Goſpel, How is it that I hear this of thee? Give an accompt of thy Stewardſhip, for thou mayeſt bee no longer Steward.

Your Highneſs *and the Parlament may ſee, by the former recited Laws and Statutes, what care all former ages had to ſee the Kings Debts and Rents duely paid and accompted for; and that no fraud ſhould bee put upon them, their Heirs or Succeſſors.*

To prevent all frauds, moſt excellent Waies and Rules were ſetled in the Court of Exchequer, in all Kings Reigns, by the great care of many Ages: And the Sages of the Law know, there was not a more exact method in the world, then the Court of Exchequer was, for the juſt accompting and paying the Kings Dues.

I have heard my Lord Cottington *ſay in the Exchequer Chamber, That no Prince in Chriſtendom had the like exact way, as the King of* England *had, by the courſe of the Exchequer, if the Rules ſet down by the Court bee by the under-Officers duely executed: ſo that whatſoever ſumm comes in there, (bee it a million of money) muſt bee duely paid and accompted for, or elſe hee could finde it upon the foot of the accompt, if ever it came in charge into the Pipe.*

And if the courſe of the Exchequer had not been diſturbed, and the payments of the publick money thruſt out of the old Channel, it had been impoſſible to have had ſo many Treaſurers cozen the Common-wealth ſo groſly and ſhamefully as they have done.

And in order and purſuance of calling all Accomptants to a juſt, true and ſtrickt Accompt, your Supplicant moſt humbly preſents theſe enſuing Propoſals to your Highneſs *and the Parlaments view and conſideration; and humbly prayeth, that the ſame may bee put in ſtrickt execution, with ſuch alterations and additions as your* Highneſs *and the Parlament ſhall conceive fitteſt for the good of the Nation in general, to eaſe the people of their Taxes. For, God defend that the generalitie of the people ſhould contribute their monies, and pay it to Treaſurers that ſhall make themſelves great (and their private poſterities after them) out of what they*

have cozened and defrauded the Common-wealth of. Therefore I humbly petition your Highneſs *and the Parlament,*

1. THat an Act of Parlament may bee made, and a Proclamation thereupon go forth, commanding and requiring all Committee-men, Sequeſtrators, Truſtees for ſale of Delinquents Eſtates, Commiſsioners of Excize, Commiſsioners of the Cuſtoms, Treaſurers of the publick Plate, and all other Treaſurers, Receivers, Collectors, and all other Accomptants and perſons whatſoever that have been imploied to collect and receiv, and have collected and received any the publick monies, goods, chattels, plate, &c, or other things of value throughout *England* and *Wales*, ever ſince the beginning of the year 1642. ſhall within three moneths next after the date of the ſaid Act and Proclamation make up and deliver (according to the Laws and Statutes of this Nation made for Accomptants and Accompts) into the Exchequer (or other place your *Highneſs* ſhall appoint) their ſeveral juſt and true Accompts of what Monies, Goods, Chattels, Plate, *&c.* or other thing of value they or any for them have received; And how and by what warrant they have paid and delivered out the ſame: The ſame Accompt to bee delivered in upon the particular oath of every ſuch perſon Accomptant, that the ſame is a juſt and true Accompt; And upon every particular accompt ſo made, to pay in the money remaining in his hands upon his ſaid Accompt (if any there bee) into the Exchequer, or other perſon and place your *Highneſs* ſhall appoint to receiv the ſame: And upon failer of bringing in their ſeveral and particular Accompts, according to the ſaid Act and Proclamation, that then all ſuch monies, goods, chattels, and other things of value, which ſhall bee found and proved (upon Inquiſition) they have received for the Common-wealth, whereof they have not accompted for, ſhall bee levyed and taken upon their eſtates, and their perſons impriſoned, untill they have juſtly

juſtly and truly accompted; And if any perſon or Accomptant aforeſaid ſhall bee dead, then the Heir and Executor or Adminiſtrator of ſuch perſon ſo dying, or being dead, ſhall duely accompt for the partie ſo dying or being dead, according to the Laws and Statutes of this Nation.

2. That an Act of Parlament may bee made, and ſent throughout *England* and *Wales*, to require and impower four of the next Juſtices of the Peace, or ſuch other Commiſsioners your *Highneſs* ſhall appoint, to call a Jury in every Pariſh of ſubſtantial Free-holders, or other diſcreet honeſt men (either of the ſame Pariſh or Pariſhes next adjacent) and to call to their aſsiſtance all other diſcreet perſons that can and will give them true information concerning any of the premiſſes in charge: And the ſaid Jury ſo impannelled, to make true Inquiſition of all ſuch neighbours and perſons aforeſaid, of theſe particular things following; *viz.*

3 That the Jurie bee impowered to enquire and preſent all perſons, men and women, and their degree and qualitie that have been ſequeſtred, in each reſpective pariſh, within every County of this Nation, and the dayes of the moneth and year when this was done: Alſo, they are to enquire and preſent what ſtock of Cattel, Money, Plate, houſhold ſtuff, *&c.* or other things of value, they had taken from them, and to ſet down the particular values thereof; Alſo to ſet down the values of the Houſes, Lands and Tenements, Woods, *&c.* ſequeſtred, and into whoſe hands the ſame came; And to ſet down the parcels and values diſtinctly, and the ſeveral time and times when this was done, and by whoſe order, warrants and directions, and who received the monies.

4. They are to enquire and preſent in every Pariſh what Committee-men and Sequeſtrators and Treaſurers are in

every Pariſh; their diſtinct names and qualities; who of them are dead, and who bee their Heirs and Executors or Adminiſtrators; And if any Sequeſtrator, Treaſurer or Committee-man bee removed out of their ancient abiding places ſince 1642. to ſet down (to the beſt of their knowledg or information they can get) where every ſuch Sequeſtrator, Committeeman and Treaſurer doth live; in what Countie and place within this Nation, or elſwhere.

5. They are to enquire in what Places of the Countie the Committee for Sequeſtrations did uſually ſit; and to certifie the ſame: And, that diligent ſearch bee made for all Books of Orders of everie particular Committee.

That in every Pariſh twelv able and diſcreet perſons, upon oath, ſhall make ſtrict inquiſition who received all Rents and Profits of all Lands and Houſes of Delinquents in the ſaid Pariſh, and how long every Delinquents lands were under Sequeſtration, before they were compounded for or ſold; and to preſent all perſons that ſhall bee proved to have the publick money in their hands, and what quantity: *And this all Juries in every Pariſh ſhall ſwear to do (without favor or affection) and that ſome conſiderable penaltie may bee inflicted on ſuch Juries or the Parties offending amongſt them, that ſhall wilfully perjure themſelvs in wilfull making falſe Returns, and in wilfull concealing any frauds to the prejudice of the Common-wealth, through their connivance or willfulneſs, when the Evidence for the State hath by good and legal witneſſes ſworn the fact poſitively and clearly; and yet the Jury will not make their Returns according to their Evidence, to ſet a penalty upon all Offenders of this nature.*

6. That the Prime Juſtices of the Peace of every County in *England* (or ſuch other Commiſſioners your *Highneſs* ſhall appoint) may bee authorized by your *Highneſs* and the Parlament to meet at the head City or Town of every County; and there they, or any ſix of them, ſhall take all the

the particular preſentments of the ſeveral pariſhes, and ſend forth their Warrants to all Committee-men, their Clerks, Sequeſtrators, Surveyers, and others, to bring in all the Acts, Orders, Ordinances, Writings, &c. which impowered them to act as a Committee for the County, and impowered them to raiſe money and ſequeſter Delinquents Eſtates (perſonal and real); and all the Orders, Warrants, and Proceedings they made as Committee men: And to command all Clerks and other perſons whatſoever, to bring in the ſaid Papers, Books and Records, which hath been made at any meeting of the Committee, without any imbezelment or alteration; And the ſaid Commiſsioners, or any ſix of them, to bee impowered to give any Committee-man or their Clerks an Oath, to anſwer to all ſuch Queſtions concerning any Monies, Lands, Goods, Chattels, or other things of value, &c. as hath come into their cuſtody, and to examine them by what Order they paid the ſame, and how much money &c. remains in every Committee-mans hands, and to return every mans Anſwer. And if any perſon refuſe to deliver the Books and Writings of the Committee, or hath imbezled or defaced the ſame, every ſuch perſon to bee committed to priſon without bail or mainpriſe, till his *Highneſs* and his Counſels further pleaſure bee known.

7. The ſaid Juſtices of peace and Commiſsioners aforeſaid, or any ſix or more of them are to retourn their Certificates of all the frauds, abuſes, failers of Truſt, &c. And what perſons they finde upon the particular Preſentmens of every Pariſh that have the *Commonwealths* monie, lands, goods, chattels, &c. in their hands, where the Juſtices finde it poſitively to bee proved, to certifie it ſo; where they finde it by circumſtances, to certifie the ſame to the beſt of their skill and knowledg, as they will anſwer their neglect to his *Highneſs* and his Counſel.

8. The ſaid Juſtices and Commiſsioners in every Countie to put up all theſe Papers, Records, Writings &c. which ſhall bee Retorned unto them from every Pariſh ſeverally, and ſafely, without any imbezelment, in Trunks or Boxes ſealed with their ſeals, with their Certificate how they in their Judgments finde the whole Buſineſs, upon the Preſentment of each Pariſh: And a Duplicate of that Preſentment to be ſent along with the Papers, Records, and Accounts in general. The ſame to bee ſent up to ſome publique Place that ſhall bee ſet down and nominated by your *Highneſs*, and there to bee ſafely kept, without imbezelment, by faithful and truſty ſworn perſons, to bee nominated and appointed for that Service; And alſo ſeveral perſons of skill and abilitie (upon oath) to view and audite and inſpect into all the ſaid Books and Papers, Accompts and Writings concerning the premiſſes; And to give your *Highneſs* and your Counſel an accompt (upon their oaths) concerning the premiſſes, and how they finde each ſeveral mans Accompt, without fear, favor or affection, (as they will anſwer it upon peril of their Eſtates and pain of Impriſonment.

9. Where Counties are large, the Juſtices and Commiſsioners aforeſaid to divide themſelvs into ſeveral diviſions, and to take the ſeveral Preſentments of Pariſhes; Provided, that (at the leaſt) ſix Commiſsioners and Juſtices bee at the taking up of the Returns of the Certificates of the Pariſhes, and every Pariſh to keep in their Veſtry of their Pariſh Church ſafely a perfect Record of the Duplicate atteſted under the hands of ten of the ableſt Free-holders, or others, with the Miniſter and Church-Wardens hands, alſo the day and year they made their Return, and the Juſtices names, and place where and to whom they delivered it: And this to bee done, upon a ſtrict penaltie.

10. That

10. That whereas there hath been ſeveral monethly taxes and voluntary contributions for many years, *viz.* ever ſince the year 1642. taxed and gathered upon the Counties, Cities, and Borroughs within *England* and *Wales*: That diligent Enquiry bee made by the Juſtices of the peace, and Comiſsioners of each Countie, of thoſe that have Aſſeſſed the ſaid Monethly *T*axes within the Cities, Borroughs, and Pariſhes of each reſpective County. And that all the ſumms of mony received by Order of Parlament or his Highneſs, and the *T*ranſactions thereupon for each reſpective Pariſh and Countie bee particularly ſet down the juſt Summs, what was Rated at every one of the Quarter-Seſsions, or other meetings, when they made their Bills and Books of Rates and Aſſeſſments, and the ſeveral Summs they laid upon every Hundred or Pariſh within every reſpective County. *T*hat they preſent in writing the groſs Accompts of every Book of Rates and Aſſeſſments ſince the year 1642; and what Commiſsioners ſigned thoſe Books of Rates, and who were made Petie Collectors for each Pariſh and Hundred for everie reſpective year, and the ſeveral Summs rated. *T*his to bee don for everie particular *T*ax which was Rated: and who was made the Chief Collectors and *T*reaſurers of each Countie. And to ſet down to what *T*reaſurers at *London* the Country *T*reaſurers of each Countie paid their *T*axes which they levied of each reſpective Countie; or, if they paid the monie in the Countrie by Order of the Commitree, to produce their Original Orders and Warrants; and thoſe Warrants and Orders to bee tranſmitted up to ſuch perſons as your *Highneſs* ſhall appoint, to bee examined of the legalitie of theſe Orders: And all theſe Original Aſſeſſments made ever ſince 1642 to bee tranſmitted up to *London*, to ſuch place or places, perſon or perſons, as your *Highneſs* ſhall appoint.

11. To make ſtrict enquiry what Voluntarie Contributions, Summ or Summs of monie, Jewels, Plate, &c. have been in each reſpective Countie, City, Town, Corporate Sea-Ports, and elſwhere contributed and given towards the maintenance of the late war in defence of the *Parlament* here in *England*, or for the relief of the Proteſtants in *Ireland*, and for the Redemption of Slaves at *Argier*, *Tunis*, *Tripolis*, and other places, and the Cuſtom Books to bee examined at every Port: And who have been by Act of Parlament or Order of any Committee impowered to receive any the aboveſaid Premiſes.

12. A convenient reward to bee allowed out of the aforeſaid Diſcoveries made for loſs of time, charges, and pains taken and undergon by any of the perſons that ſhall bee ſo imployed by the aforeſaid Juſtices of peace, in each Countie.

13. To appoint ſworn Officers and Auditors to Calculate and caſt up what hath been levyed ſince 1642. according to the Returns out of each County in the Nation: And what hath been duely and really paid, upon true and lawfull Warrants. And a ſelect Committee appointed to view and approve of theſe warrants: And, upon approbation, the Officers to allow it upon every Receivers accompt. And if that the Warrants bee not approved of by the Commiſsioners of his *Highneſs*'s Treaſurie, or others, to bee appointed for that ſervice, by his *Highneſs* and Counſel; Then the full Charge of every County ſhall bee put at the foot of each mans Accompt that hath been a Receiver: And every Receivor's Eſtate and Perſon to lie lyable, till hee hath perfected his Accoumpt juſtly and truly in the Exchequer, according to the good known Laws of the Land.

14. And if this cours bee ſtrictly looked after and taken; Whoſoever hath any of the Commonwealths monie

in

in his hands, it will bee found out. For, if any Treaſurer or Collector hath a Charge given him by the Countrie, Citty, Town, Corporation, or hundred, for the monies hee hath received, Every Receiver and Treaſurer muſt diſcharge themſelvs by known legal Acquittances and Warrants from ſuch as were legally impowered to give them; and from the day any Accomptant of the Commonwealths money, till the time hee ſhall have a juſt and legal Diſcharge upon a juſt and true Accompt, not a feined, forged, or *Averian* Account; I moſt humblie ſay, Every Receivers and Accountants Bodie, Lands and Eſtate whatſoever, their Heirs, Executors, and Adminiſtrators, are all, and every one of them Lyable, till they have juſtly Accounted, and gotten their Legal *Quietus eſt.* And this is the known Law of the *Nation*, and conſtantly hath in all ages been practiſed in the good old way of the Court of *Exchequer* at *Weſtminſter*. *The Whole Premiſes, upon my knees, I humble tender at Your* Highneſs *and the* Parlaments *feet, and implore your gracious and benigne Acceptance of your Supplicant's loyal endeavor, for Your* Highneſs *and the* Commonwealths *Service.*

To His Highneſs

OLIVER

LORD PROTECTOR OF England, Scotland & Ireland,

and the Dominions thereunto belonging.

The humble Petition of THOMAS VIOLET *of London* Goldſmith,

Humbly ſheweth,

THat great quantities of Plate, Bullion, and the heavy currant Silver Coynes of this Nation, (as Shillings, Sixpences and Half-Crowns, and Five ſhilling pieces) have been formerly, and are at this day melted down, for the making of Gilt and Silver Thread and Wyer Spangles, Oas,

Purl, &c. to the great waſte of the Stock of this Nation.

By which evil Practices many miſchiefs and damages have been and are daily put on the Common-wealth, which ought ſtrictly to bee prevented, moſt eſpecially in this conjuncture of time when wee have Warrs with *Spain*.

That your *Highneſs* would bee graciouſly pleaſed for the future, not to ſuffer either Refiner, Goldſmith, or Wyer-drawer to melt the Coyn or Plate of the Nation, to make Gold or Silver Wyer or Thread, but that all Silver imploied or ſpent in this manufacture bee bought or contracted for beyond Seas, upon the produce and returns of Commodities; And that none of the Coyn or Plate of the Nation be ſpent or wrought in this manufacture upon the ſevereſt penalties can bee inflicted on the Offenders.

That the late *King* and his Counſel in *Anno* 1635. taking into their conſideration the great loſs hee ſuſtained in his Cuſtoms, by ſuffering this manufacture to bee in *England*, did cauſe a Duty to bee impoſed on Gold and Silver Wyer, which was made into Silver Thread, Spangles, Purls and Oas; the ſumm of Six pence the ounce *Troy*, (which is not two pence upon the ounce *Venice*) upon Gold and Silver thread, commonly ſo called; but it is truly gold and ſilver Silk, for the Silver is all ſpun on Silk. May it pleaſe your *Highneſs*, the Book of Rates in the Cuſtom-houſe laies eight groats upon one pound *Venice*, which, upon accompt, is above ſix pence the ounce *Troy* in Wyer (as upon Examination before the Counſel of Trade your Petitioner ſhall make it clearly appear).

That if your *Highneſs* do continue the making of gold and ſilver wyer and thread here, That your *Highneſs* will bee pleaſed to recommend it to the Committee for Trade,

to

to take especial care to prevent the frauds and dammages now daily done and practised in this manufacture; And to make such Orders and Rules for the Trade, that there may bee a thorow Reformation of false, sleight, and deceitfull stuff, upon very strict penalties: And for the due execution of the same, the Committee of Trade to consider and settle such Officers, and their Fees for their paines, as they shall deem fiting, to prevent the by-past Abuses; And to report the same Regulation to your *Highness* and your Counsell for Confirmation.

That if your *Highness* continue this manufacture here, That then as great an Excize bee laid on it here, as is laid on the Custom and Impost of Gold and Silver thread, imported from *Millan*, *Venice*, or other Forain parts: For the making of silver thread here, hinders the importation of so much Silver as would bee brought in on that manufacture, which Silver will increase the stock of the Nation. And this manufacture being made here (as it is now made) without order or Rule both for fineness and weight of Silver, and without consideration had what your *Highness* and the Common-wealth loseth in the Customs, by suffering it to bee made here, and the waste of the Coyne, Plate and Bullion of the Nation, (without a due regulation of this manufacture) it is far better for the Commonwealth to have the making totally put down.

May it please your *Highness*, Much may bee alledged and pleaded for the making this manufacture here, so it may bee justly made; as that it keeps and maintains a lively hood for many thousand persons and families in and about the City of *London*, which would perish, if this manufacture were put down. A just and strict regulation will bee better for the Work-men and the Trades-men *(such as are honest, and would not adulterate their Lace, Ribbons, Spangles, &c. in this manufacture) And bee greatly advantagious*

to the weavers, The Coyn and Bullion of this Nation will bee preserved, and your Highneſs *Revenue much increaſed,* If the draught for the juſt and due regulation of the manufacture of Gold and Silver wyer and thread (which your Petitioner herewith moſt humbly preſents to your *Highneſs*) bee put in due execution, with ſuch alterations and additions as the Committe for Trade in their great wiſedoms ſhall think fit for your *Highneſs* and the Common-wealths Service.

Your Petitioner humbly praies, That the premiſſes may by your *Highneſs* bee recommended to the Committee for Trade, and they Ordered,

1. *To conſider, Whether it bee fit (at this conjuncture of time) to continue the making of this manufacture here in* England.

2. *If they conceive the manufacture ſtill may bee made here for the relief and imployment of the Poor, That then the Committee of Trade bee Ordered by your* Highneſs *to ſet down ſuch Rules and Waies, as they in their Judgments ſhall think fit, to prevent all former Frauds and Abuſes put upon the Coyn of this Nation: And that aſmuch Excize may bee laid on the Silver Wyer and Thread, as is paid to your* Highneſs *and the Common-wealth in the Cuſtom-houſe, if the Silver Thread were imported from beyond Seas into this Nation;* Which will increaſ your *Highneſs* Revenue ſome thouſands of pounds yearly. And that your Petitioner may bee Ordered by your *Highneſs* to attend the Committee for Trade with his draught for the regulation of this Manufacture: And (as in duty bound) your Petitioner ſhall pray, &c.

THO. VIOLET.

Whitehall,

Whitehall, *May* 8. 1655.

HIs Highneſs *referreth this to the Conſideration of the Committee and Counſel for Trade, to enquire into the particulars and certifie their opinion.*

Nath. Bacon.

May it pleaſe your Highneſs;

THe late *King* Charles *and his Privy Counſel would never ſuffer, that the ſilver courrant Coins or Plate of the Nation ſhould bee waſt d in this Manufacture, for the making of gold or ſilver Thread: What the Refiners and Wyerdrawers did ſpend of the Plate and Coin, in theſe Manufactures, it was and is againſt the Laws of the Land: And by the very* Monopolie *that the King granted to Alderman* Wollaſton *and Aldermam* Gibbs, *An.* 1636. *for to be his onely Agents for refining one Hundred thouſand pounds a year of Forrain Silver, for making this Manufacture; yet, in that* Project *of* Gibbs *and* Wollaſton *they Covenant with the King, not to Refine or cauſ to bee melted down any the Courrant Coin or Plate of the Nation; and that they ſhould melt none but Forrain Bullion which ſhall be Imported for the making this aforeſaid Manufacture;* And many of the *Privy Counſel* then were for the total putting down of the making and wearing this Manufacture here in *England*, as cauſing an exceſſive Expence to all Sorts and Conditions of people, as being a Vanitie that the Nation might well bee without: *But then it was conſidered by the King and his Counſell, the multitude of Women ſpinſters and other people that had their ſubſiſtance out of it; and, in that regard, the Manufacture was continued (but under ſtrict Rules for the due Regulation, and that all the Workers ſhould conform to the ſame, and they did promiſe*

an humble conformity:) and I Thomas Violet was appointed, under the Great Seal of England, to take the care and Charge of Sealing and Surveying all theſe Manufactures, to prevent the former cheating and Coſennage both of Wyerdrawers, Silkmen, and Refiners. The ſeveral frauds I clearly proved, under the hand of Mr Jackſon, the ſworn Aſſay-maſter of Goldſmiths hall; and I cut and defaced all ſleight. courſ, and deceitfull gold or ſilver Thread, Spangles, wyer &c. which Office I did juſtly and faithfully execute for almoſt Five years, and prevented all former Abuſes, and cauſed the workmen to work their ſilver for theſe Manufactures as exactly and juſtly as the Plate or Money of the Nation is made, during the time I regulated the Manufacture by my ſealing of it. This I have proved, under the hand of many hundred Spinſters who petitioned for the Reſtoring mee to my Office again.

Your Petitioners moſt humble prayer to your Highneſs is, that the Honorable Committee for Trade, now having this Buſineſs under their examination, and (having the particulars in this Petition in conſideration) may bee by your Highneſs ordered to make their Report, and to take care for the preſervation of the Bullion and Coins of the Nation: And that all Silver made for this Manufacture bee melted at a Publique place, and Viewed, and Regiſtred; that ſo none of the Coins or Plate of the Nation bee melted down for any of theſe Manufactures: And to appoint ſuch Officers as they ſhall conceiv may bee fit for the regulating of all Abuſes in the Manufacture, and for the beſt advantage of your Highneſs.

The honorable Committee for Trade have given the wyerdrawers and Refiners ſeveral dayes for the propounding of wayes for regulating of the ſaid Trade, and to prevent the abuſes by-paſt, and to preſerve the Coin and treaſure of the Nation. But (inſtead of that) the Wyerdrawers have preſented the Draught of a Corporation to the Committee of Trade; which, if it ſhould bee granted unto them in that way they have preſented the ſame, They would melt, and cauſ the Goldſmiths to melt for their uſe (in a few years) all the heavie Gold and Silver, Coin and Plate of this Nation. And indeed they

are

are come to that confidence, that they think to cozen all people that wear Gold and Silver; And to get a Charter for the doing thereof, that ſo they may work Iniquitie by a Law.

May it pleaſe your *Highneſs*,

THere was a Complaint made to the late *King* Charles and the Lords of his Privy Counſel, January 25. 1634. And an Information given by ſome of the Wardens of the Company of Goldſmiths, touching the detriment and dammage which ariſeth by the undue Practices of ſome Refiners and Gold-wyer-drawers of London, by melting the currant Coynes and Bullion of the Nation: And ſeveral Depoſitions againſt the Refiners of London were preſented to the King and his Counſel at Whitehall, of very high and heynous Crimes by ſome of the Wardens and Company of Goldſmiths; and no doubt but the Company of the Goldſmiths have the Copies of theſe Papers in their Hall. Thereupon, Mr Attorney General Bankes received a Command from the ſaid King and Lords to proſecute the Statute of 4. Hen. 7th againſt ſuch Refiners and Gold-wyer-drawers as hee ſhould finde to bee Offenders, and to ſee the Penalties might bee recovered. And upon further examination of theſe moſt heynous Offences, an Information was put into the Starr-Chamber by the Kings Attorney General Bankes againſt Alderman Wollaſton and Alderman Gibbs, for melting and procuring ſeveral Goldſmiths to cull and melt the currant Silver Coynes of the Nation; And for the unlawfull buying and refining of the ſaid heavy currant Engliſh Monies, and for unlawfull buying and refining Gold and Silver, and for ſeveral other Abuſes practiſed by them, contrary to the Laws and Statutes of the Nation (as appeareth at large by the Kings Attornies Information in the Starr-Chamber againſt them.)

Some of the Wyer-drawers of London, ſeeing the Winde blow at that Corner, to prevent the danger approaching on them, peti-

tion the ſaid late King in the behalf of themſelvs and divers other Wyer-drawers of the City of London, *the ſecond of* April 1635. *In which Petition they ſet forth, that there are many Abuſes daily practiſed and done in the ſaid Trade of Gold and Silver-wyer-drawing, and the manufactures thereof; and that their Trade was under no Government; That they deſired his Majeſties moſt gracious care in ſuppreſſing the promiſcuous uſe, by ordering them into a Government. Therefore they pray, That ſuch as have ſerved for the Trade, or ſuch as they ſhould deem fit to uſe the ſame; and one or two Refiners, that may refine Gold and Silver to bee uſed in the Trade, may bee made a Corporation with a* non obſtante *of the Statute of* 4. Hen. 7. *or any other Statute or Proclamation.*

And that they may bee Incorporated, and have two Wardens and twelve Aſſiſtants, and to have a fitting Officer for their Company and raiſing money for neceſſary Charges; And that no Gold or Silver thread may bee put to ſale, unleſs it bee ſealed with the Seal of the Company. And upon theſe Conditions they offered to pay his Majeſtie, his Heirs and Succeſſors for ever One thouſand pounds yearly, and (over and above) two pence the ounce for all Forain Bullion that ſhall bee uſed in their Trade: And humbly petition, That his Majeſtie would bee pleaſed to publiſh his Proclamation, to forbid any to practiſe any the ſaid Trades or Manufactures, or Drawing or Spinning of Gold or Silver Thread or Wyer, other than ſuch as ſhould bee Incorporated.

This Reſtraint ought now to bee carefully looked after; and to make the melting down of Shillings, Sixpences, half Crowns, and five Shilling pieces, Felony; And ſtrictly to forbid (upon ſevere Penalties) all Goldſmiths not to preſume to bee Caſhiers and Receivers of Merchants monies, by which means they have formerly and do at this day cull and melt down the heavy Engliſh money. The Goldſmiths have (by buying and ſelling Engliſh Gold above the currant price) bought and ſold all the Gold out of the Nation, to the unſpeakable dammage thereof. And now there is no other Remedy to get Gold back in the Nation, but by raiſing of it, as ſome would have it: ſhortly wee ſhall have no Silver Coyn left in the Nation, and then wee muſt raiſe that to get back our Silver again: And by this means all ſetled Revenues and Landlords will loſe ſo much in their eſtates as you raiſe Gold and Silver.

Upon this Petition his Majeſtie granted this following Reference; viz.

2 *April*

2 *Aprill*, 1635.

His Majeſtie referreth this Petition to Mr Attourny General, To take the ſame into conſideration, together with the Earl of Holland's *Petition, and certifie his opinion.*

R. Freeman.

This Petition I have readie to bee produced.

Sr *John Bankes* Attournie general certifies back to the late King, to this effect, *viz.* That hee did not diſcern any inconvenience, that the Gold Wyerdrawers (who offer his Majeſtie, upon their voluntary Petition, One thouſand pounds a year, and two pence for everie ounce of Bullion which ſhould bee uſed by them) ſhould bee incorporated, for their better government, according to their Petition, ſo that they bee tied to ſome certain Conditions, (amongſt which) they were not to work any of the currant heavie Monie of this Nation, nor any of the Plate of the Nation for any Manufacture of Gold or Silver Thread or Wyer: they were not to uſe any Silver in their trade, but Forrain Bullion, and no more than yearlie ſhould bee imported by their means; and the Manufacture made according to the Standard or better.

Hereupon the Refiners Alderman Wolaſton *and Alderman* Gibbs *&c. ſeeing themſellves expoſed to the Law (by the information of ſome of the Wardens and Company of the Goldſmiths informing againſt them, and Mr Attournie General* Banks, *by Order of the King and Lords proſecuting them in the Starr Chamber, for high Crimes and Miſdemeanors,) the Refiners* viz. *Alderman* Wolaſton *and Alderman* Gibbs *&c. Petition the late King in* An. 1635. *for his grace and mercy; and making*

their humble Application to the then Attournie general Bankes, *and Sr* J. Cook *Secretary of State, and to Sr* William Beecher, *and ſeveral others, whom they paid and gratified with great ſums of money to get their pardons, I being privy thereunto, and deſired and requeſted by them to uſe all my endeavors to keep Sr* John Wolaſton *off from being indighted upon high Crimes and Offenſes, which Alderman* Wolaſton *was charged with by Sr* Henry Mildemay *and ſome of the Wardens of the Company of Goldſmiths, which I did by Secretary* Cookes *power: and I did aſsiſt them to get their Pardons, and ſpent my money, and uſed all my endeavors and intereſt freely; And at the earneſt entreatie of Alderman* Gibbs, *who with many tears beſought mee to do it for Gods ſake.*

I having a little before made my peace, and paid to t'e King two thouſand Pounds for my pardon for Tranſporting Gold and Silver, and by that means being intimately acquainted with Sr John Cook *then Principal Secretary of State, and Mr Attourney General* Bankes *and Sr* William Beecher *Clark of the Counſel: I could, and did get, for Alderman* Wolaſton *and Alderman* Gibbs, *great favour of them. I managed their buſineſs ſo amongſt them, that the edg of Juſtice was blunted, and Sr* Henry Mildemay's *Commiſsion revoked, and all his endeavors to undoe Alderman* Wolaſton *and Alderman* Gibbs *I diſappointed by the power of the aforeſaid perſons.* And I am confident they paid them well for it, for in thoſe times there was nothing done by Courtiers, for Citizens, without money; and I am ſure, I, in my particular found it ſo. *But I never would accept or take of Alderman* Wolaſton *or Alderman* Gibbs (*for my expenſes and pains*) *one farthing, though they often times then offered mee their pretended great acknowledgments: And this I do ſay is true, as I ſhall anſwer before God, I did it freely upon the account of Friendſhip I bare unto Alderman* Gibbs. And how well and juſtly Alderman *Gibbs* and Alderman *Wolaſton* requited mee for getting them their Pardons of the King, in 1636. the Common Counſel of *London* and many honorable members of Parliament know, and heard at a common

mon Hall, in *January* 1643. when Alderman *Wolaſton* (beeing Lord Major) and Alderman *Gibbs* were the chief Informers againſt mee in *Guild Hall*, and incenſed many honorable members of Parlament and the body of the Citie of *London* againſt mee, as a malignant and vicious perſon; And this Alderman *Gibbs* did (by a long winded Speech) openly at *Guild Hall*. And (ſom few daies before) they abuſed and villified mee before a Committee of *Parlament*, at Goldſmiths Hall, and procured mee to bee ſent to the Tower through their unjuſt Information. But God in his good time will finde their iniquity out; for ſince, it hath been proved what Alderman *Wolaſton* hath been to the Government, and that makes him uncapable to bear Office in the *Commonwealth*: How God will diſpoſe of Alderman *Gibbs* this Parlament, that, time will preſent.

And, what Service I have don to this *Nation*, I moſt humbly leav it to the conſiderations of all true *Engliſh* men. I ſaved the Nation (at one time) three hundreed Thouſand Pounds, in the year 1652. A ſumm of money, more then all the Goldſmiths and Refiners are worth, put them all together. And in doing that ſervice (I moſt humbly ſay) I clearly ſhewed my Dutie and Affection to this Nation; and ſhewed, I was no Malignant. When Alderman *Wolaſton* and Alderman *Gibbs* do ſo much for this Nation, I ſhall take them to bee better men then now I do.

After many dayes Attendance of Alderman *Wolaſton*, and Alderman *Gibbs* at the Counſel-table, and at the Attourny Generall Sr *John Banke*'s Chamber, Upon condition that Alderman *Wolaſton* and Alderman *Gibbs* might have their Pardons under the Great Seal of *England*, for what offenſes and abuſes (in their Trades) they had done contrary to the Laws of this Nation: and Mr Attournie Generall (by order of the King and Counſel) to ſtop his Proceedings

Their Pardons under the Great Seal of *England* will ſhew the offences they were guilty of, for men need not take a Pardon, if they be not guilty and faulty. I refer my ſelf to the particulars in their Pardons, what offenſes they were pardoned of.

ings againſt them and the reſt of the Refiners, both in the Exchequer and Starr-Chamber: The Refiners, Alderman *Wolaſtone* and Alder. *Gibbs* thereupon offer to pay his Majeſtie ſix pence the ounce for all Wyer that ſhould bee diſgroſſed and ſpent in that Munufacture: And they drew in ſix other Refiners to bee their fellow Partners and Monopoliſts; aud to pay the Rent of a fair houſ, above one hundred and twenty Pounds a year; to pay Clarks wages, and other incident charges.

And this Office they did execute ſeveral moneths (in the year 1635.) before the King would give Alderman *Wolaſton* and Alderman *Gibbs* their pardons for their offenſes. *And much adoe then they had to get their Pardons: for when their pardons were at the Signet Office, Sr* Henry Mildemay *got the King to ſtop their pardons. And this Sr* John Cook *the Secretary of State told me, That Sr* Henry Mildemay *had preſented to the late king, how groſly both Alderman* Gibbs *and Alderman* Wolaſton *had abuſed the Commonwealth, contrary to the Law, and how they had ſurpriſed the King in getting their Pardons, and that they deſerved to bee made exemplar.* I am ſure (according to the uſuall way of the Court) Alderman *Wolaſton* and Alderman *Gibbs* could not remove ſuch obſtructions but with great ſumms, though the particular ſumms I never knew. And I was deſired by Mr Secretry *Cook*, at *Oatlands* on Sunday after Diner, to go preſently to *London* to Alderman *Gibbs* and Alderman *Wolaſton* (which accordingly I did) to let them know from him, their Pardons were ſtopped by the King, and that they ſhould attend him about it; which accordingly Alderman *Gibbs* and Alderman *Wolaſton* the next morning did. *I was well acquainted (for I had paid for it) what the meaning of ſuch a meſſage was, to bee ſent by me to Alderman* Gibbs *and Alderman* Wolaſton: *And I did believ that they had not come up to a full price, nor paid ſo much as was expected; and I knew that was the main ſtop of their Pardons.*

Upon this Offer of the Refiners, to pay the King ſix pence

pence the ounce, (being aſmuch again as the Gold-wyer-drawers had offered by their Petition) the Gold-wyer-drawers were laid aſide with their Petition, and Propoſitions by the late King and his Counſel as inconſiderable perſons.

And the Refiners (Alderman *Gibbs* and Alderman *Wollaſton*, by their craft) getting to bee great with the Attorney General *Bankes*, Secretary *Cook*, Sir *William Beecher*, and other Courtiers, got to bee the onely men to carry on this Project, for being the Kings Agents to furniſh One hundred thouſand pounds a year for this manufacture. And the late King (to gratifie the Refiners who had bid him ſo roundly) granted Alderman *Wollaſton* and Alderman *Gibbs* their pardons under the great Seal of *England* (the reſt of the Refiners being then but young men, were eſteemed as raſcal Deer, they had not wool on their Backs, nor had committed ſins enough for to have their pardons under the great Seal of *England*; and ſo got diſmiſſed by Order of the Lords of the Counſel in the Court of *Starr-Chamber*.

And the King appoints the Refiners (*viz.* Alderman *Wollaſton*, Alderman *Gibbs*, *Henry Patrickſon*, *Daniel Stalworthy*, *William Haward*, *Richard Gibbs*, *Thomas Nowel* and *Walter Hill*) under the great Seal of *England*, to bee called by the name of his Majeſties *Agents*, for the refining of One hundred thouſand pounds Gold and Silver a year for this Buſineſs; And they had not a bare title onely of that name, for the late King allowed them to ſhare with him, and to tax the People in their prizes, to ſell their gilt ſilver Wyer two pence upon every ounce, and the ſilver Wyer one penny upon every ounce more then divers Goldſmiths of *London* offered to ſell the Wyer-drawers. And this was offered ſeveral times by Captain *Williams* (the late Kings Goldſmith) a man of a great and vaſt Eſtate, *Mr Foster*, *Mr Symonds*, and divers other able rich men; And good ſecuritie offered to the late Kings Commiſsioners, and at the

Counſel Table at *Whitehall*, for the performing of Covenants: But this would not bee granted by the late King or his Counſel.

And this gave the great Offence in Parlament, 16:0. it being found by the Parlament upon Examination, that ſo great and numerous a company as the Company of Goldſmiths and Gold-wyer-drawers are, ſhould bee debarred ſo great a branch in their Trade as this is; For it will be juſtified, and credibly demonſtrated to your *Highneſs* and the Parlament, that theſe aforeſaid eight Refiners (whereof Alderman *Gibbs* and Alderman *Wollaſton* had one half of the Trade and ſtock, as appears by the Monopolie) got more for their own particular profit, by monopolizing to themſelvs the ſale of all Gold and Silver Wyer for this Manufacture, being one hundred thouſand pounds a year, then all the Goldſmiths in *London*, which are many hundred families, did get at that time by ſelling all the new Plate in *London*; (And, I am confident, all knowing Goldſmiths will calculate it ſo;) which was and is the principal part of the Goldſmiths Trade.

The Duty reſerved to the King in lieu of his Cuſtoms, was nothing ſo odious to the Wyer-drawers (in compariſon) as the Refiners Monopoly was. The Wyer-drawers conſtantly affirmed to the King and his Counſel, and to the Kings Commiſſioners, that the Refiners Monopoly was contrary to Law; and upon a diſpute at the Counſell Table, the King called the Refiners (Alderman *Gibbs* and Alderman *Wollaſton*) his Sheep, and the Wyerdrawers he called his Goats; (but in the concluſion both theſe Refining Aldermen proved the Kings Majeſties Sheep biters:) And the late King preſſed the Wyer-drawers at his Counſell Table to conform themſelvs to the Regulation; but ſome of the Wyer-drawers told the ſaid King, They would ſubmit to the Law, but not to the Refiners Monopoly; and that it was againſt the Law, that Freemen of the City of *London* ſhould bee reſtrained a Free Market, to enrich

private

private men, and to make them Aldermen. Beſides, the Gold-wyer-drawers were compelled upon great penalties (as appears by their Bonds) to buy no Silver wyer for their manufacture, but of the ſaid Alderman *Wollaſton*, Alderman *Gibbs*, and the other ſix Patentees joined with them; and oftentimes the Refiners (*Gibbs* and *Wollaſton*) preſſed the Commiſsioners to cauſe ſearches; and complaining they were at great charges paying Clerks wages and Houſe-rent; and therefore deſired ſearches and ſeiſures of ſuch Wyer-drawers ſilver which did not buy of them: And they forced all perſons to pay them two pence the ounce for all gilt wyer, and a penny the ounce for all ſilver wyer more then they ought or needed to have done, had the Wyer-drawers been permitted to have had a free market. And the Gold wyerdrawers paid this for divers years together, as is well known to many hundred perſons in *London*.

Hereupon, the Wyer-drawers petitioned againſt this Monopoly of Alderman *Gibbs* and Alderman *Wollaſton* to the Parlament in 1640. and therein ſet forth that this Monopoly was contrary to the Common Law, and againſt the Statute of 21. *Jac.* concerning Monopolies; and contrary to the Liberties of the City of *London*; And that this monopoly was for the exceſsive profit of the Refiners, for that they could buy their ſilver at a moneths time 3 pence an ounce cheaper; then they were forced to pay the Refiners ready money: And this was affirmed in Parlament by *Thomas Jolis*, *Robert Patrickſon*, *Laurence Whalley*, *Nathanaël Seabourn*, and ſeveral other Gold-wyer-drawers.

Upon Examination of this Buſineſs by the Parlament, the Patentees (Alderman *Wollaſton* Alderman *Gibbs*, &c) were commanded to bring into the Houſe their Monopoly, and then the Wyer-drawers got quite free from it by Parlament.

The Refiners (*Alderman* Wollaſton *and Alderman* Gibbs) *to avoid the puniſhment which might juſtly have been impoſed on them by the Parlament, according to the Statute of* 21. Jac. cap. 3.

concerning Monopolies. When they ſaw they could hold their Monopoly no longer, and that the Parlament was called, they petition to have their Patent of Agencie *diſſolved, as if it had been put on them by force and againſt their wills, alledging, That they were ſued in the* Starr-Chamber; *and that (to avoid a ſentence there, being terrified by the example of the* Soap-boilers *and the* Vintners) *they accepted of beeing his Majeſties Agents.*

When the truth was, they accepted of being the Kings Agents for the ſole refining and venting of One hundred thouſand pounds ſilver a year for this Manufacture, out of a covetous deſire to enrich themſelvs, and unjuſtly did exclude all Goldſmiths and Wyer-drawers that had ſerved their time to the Trade; and by their undertaking this Monopoly, they got their Pardons under the great Seal of England *for many great, as may appear upon view of their Pardons.*

That they were ſued in the *Starr-Chamber*, it is very true: For ſuch Crimes, that had the Cauſe proceeded, and witneſſes then been examined, and the Court given Judgement againſt them, they had been both undone.

To my knowledg, this was their chief Plea in Parlament; and ſo they flung dirt in the Kings face (for his mercie towards them) by their Petition which they preſented to the Houſe.

Though before the Parlament, they would neither let Goldſmiths nor the Wyer-drawers to have a free market; but ſtiffly inſiſted on it, ever when it came to a diſpute, That the Refining and preparing Gold and Silver wyer, did abſolutely belong to the Refiners; and ſo excluded the Goldſmiths of *London*: And by their Monopolie excluded all other perſons from the Trade, but onely eight perſons (the Kings Agents and Patentees. Theſe Agents laid out of their own purſes Two hundred eightie and two pounds three ſhillings for repairing the Office, which they gave me a Bill of under their own hands; and deſired mee to move Secretarie *Cook* to get the King to allow it them. I did

ſo;

ſo; but the King returned them anſwer, *That if it had coſt them ten times as much, hee would not allow one penny; for hee had Ordered Alderman* Wollaſton *and Alderman* Gibbs *to have their Pardon, and that in that hee had given them Ten thouſand pounds.* I have the Original Bill by mee.

Several times this Monopolie of the Refiners was oppoſed, and argued oftentimes at the Counſell Table, and before the Kings Commiſſioners in *Little Brittain*, and at *Mr* Attornie General *Bankes* Chamber (both before Alderman *Wollaſton* and Ald. *Gibbs* got their Monopolie, and after they had their Patent) ſome of the Wyer drawers and ſome of the Goldſmiths and Silkmen (chiefly Sir *George Binion* a Silkman, for the Silkmen; and the Wardens of the Companie of Goldſmiths, for the Goldſmiths; and all the chief Wyer-drawers, in behalf of themſelvs and their Fellow Wyer-drawers) oppoſing Sir *John Wollaſton* and Alderman *Gibbs* Monopolie, and deſiring to have a free market to buy their Silver. But the Refiners ſtill made ſuch potent friends, (no doubt their Gold flew plentifully amongſt the Courtiers, or elſe they could not have carried it) that neither VVyer-drawers nor Goldſmiths could buy of them or ſell either ſilver or wyer for any the manufactures aforeſaid; but all muſt bee bought of Alderman *Wollaſton* and Alderman *Gibbs*, and others the Kings Agents and Pattentees, till 1640. that that the ſame was overthrown in Parlament.

May it pleaſe your Highneſs;

DUring the Proſecution and Conteſt of this buſineſs between the Goldſmiths, Gold Wyerdrawers, Refiners, and Silkmen, about the frauds and abuſes committed in their Trades, (each man putting it off from one to another.) The King and Lords of the Counſel caſt about, How to bee truelie informed of all theſe abuſes, and to ſearch into the bottom of all this Knavery and Cheating:

Several wayes were propounded. At laſt, the Lords of the Counſel Ordered a private Search and Inſpection into all Silkmens and Gold Wyerdrawers ſhopps : And afterwards , the King and Lords impowered mee Thon as Violet, *under the Great Seal, to make theſe Searches frequently, to prevent frauds in Wyrdrawers and ſilkmens ſhops, and in any other places where I conceived ſlight and bad Silver and Gold Thread and Wyer was, and to ſeaze the ſame, and if I found it bad to deface it, and to certifie their names to the Kings Counſel or the Attourney Generall.*

And the Lords of the Counſel, at that time, Ordered Sr Henry *M*lde*may to ſend ſeveral perſons to buy ſmall parcels of Gold and Silver Wyer and Thread, Spangles, Purls, Oas &c. in almoſt all the Silkmens and Wyerdrawers ſhops in and about* London. *That ſo they might bee truely informed, upon an Aſſay by the ſworn Aſſay-maſter at Golſmiths Hall Mr* Alexander Jackſon, *what manner of gold and ſilver Wyer and Thread, Spangles, Oes, and Purl ; (and the Standard of the Silver) was made and vented for good ſilver.* I do verily believ, There was never a fuller or cleater Diſcoverie of Frauds and Cheatings in the world, then was diſcovered at that time:

For M*r Jackſon* the Aſſay-maſter of Goldſmiths Hall hath Reported everie particular Aſſay by it ſelf, and Maſter *Humfrey Worthington,* M*r Thomas Johnſon,* and M*r Leonard Welſted* have ſet down the dayes of the moneth and the year, the Silkmen and Wyerdrawers ſhopps, and their names, where they bought this courſ adulterate Silver Thread and Spangles, and that they bought it and paid for good ſilver, I have both the original Certificates ready to be produced.

The Title of the ſeveral Aſſayes is,

TRialls made by me Alexander Jackſon *(ſworn Aſſay-maſter of the Right Worſhipfull the* Company *of* Goldſmiths, *for his Majeſties ſervice) of certain Quills of gold and ſilver*

ſilver Thread, Spangles, Plait, and Wyer for and by the apointment of the Right Worſhipfull Sr Henry Mildemay *Knight, as followeth, being firſt burnt and melted, and aſſayed, brought by Sr* Henry Mildmay *the* 9th *of* July, 1635. *to Goldſmiths Hall. The Kings Standard for Starling ſilver is Eleven ounces Two penny weight Fine upon the pound. The Aſſayes follow,* viz.

The particular Originall Reports I have readie to produce to the Counſell of Trade, wherin they will ſee the great Cheats put upon the Nation by ſome Refiners, Wyerdrawers, and Silkmen.

At the bottome of the original paper, this followes, viz.

Theſe are the ſeverall Aſſayes of the ſilver Spangles, plaited Wyer, and ſilver Thread, made and Reported by mee Alexander Jackſon; *They being all under Starling and againſt the Laws of the Kingdom. Some part of theſe Aſſayes I made by the appointment of Sr* Henry Mildemay *Knight, in the year* 1635; *and ſome part of which falſified and defective ſilver Thread, flatted Wyer, and Spangles were brought to mee by Mr* Tho. Violet, *in the year* 1638.

By mee Alexander Jackson *the ſworn Aſſay-maſter to the worſhipfull Company of Goldſmiths,* London.

By Order of the Lords of the Counſel I *Tho. Violet* paid *Mr Jackſon* Five pounds for this Service.

And this ſilver Thread, Wyer, Spangles, &c. was one hundred and odd ſeveral parcels made, contrarie to the oath of every Goldſmith, Wyerdrawer, and Refiner, when they are made free at Goldſmiths Hall. I humblie leav it to

bee conſidered on, whether this manufacture ought not ſtrictly to bee looked after and duelie regulated, when neither Oaths nor bonds will keep them to work good ſilver.

For executing of my Office juſtlie and ſtrictlie, to hold the Refiners and Wyerdrawers to a Rule, to make all their wyer and thread of good ſilver, and puniſhing the Offenders, manie of them I brought to Juſtice. And I ſhewed the King how hee was cozened in the Mint of Three thouſand Pounds a year *(which cauſed Alderman* Wollaſton *ſecretly to hate mee mortally) And hee cauſed mee to bee clapt up (by his incenſing ſome members of Parlament againſt mee) in the Tower, in* January 1643. *when hee was Lord Major of* London. *And the Parlament kept mee cloſe priſoner there Nine hundred twentie eight daies; and Fourteen Moneths more, in which I had libertie to go at large in the Tower; upon the pretence I was a Malignant, when the truth was, Alderman* Wollaſton vented but his private malice againſt mee.

Upon this occaſion *viz.* Alderman *Wollaſton* having put up to the Parlament in the year 1640, a Petition, ſlighting the Kings mercie and goodneſs towards him, in giving him his Pardon; when I ſaw Alderman *Wollaſton*'s carriage in that Petition hee preſented to the Parlament, I then told the King, in the year 1640. that Alderman *Wollaſton* joining with ſome of the Officers of his *Mint* had made a fraudulent agreement to melt all the ſilver in the *Mint*, which was to make monies; and hee to have from the King the allowance of 16 grains upon the pound Troy, which is 2 pence the pound weight Troy, for all the ſilver hee melted in the *Mint*. This agreement was made without either the King's or the Lords of the Counſells knowledg or approbation, nor was there anie allowance or power under the Great Seal of *England* for him to receive theſe fees, or the Officers of the *Mint* to grant them to him.

By which fraudulent bargain, the King was defrauded of

of neer upon three thouſand pounds a year, from the year 1630. to the year 1640. And Alderman *Wollaſton* put up all this monie in his own particular purſe, the King nor Lords never knowing any thing of this blinde bargain.

Alderman *Wollaſtons* place in the *Tower* being ſo inconſiderable in the eie of the State, and in the reputation of the world (the melter of the mint being but the Maſter workers ſervant) that Alderman *Wollaſton* never had a Patent for it under the Great Seal, whereas the Maſter worker of the Mint hath a Pattent; the Warden, the Aſſaie-maſter, the maſter of the Irons, the Engraver, the Comptroller, the Teller, and ſeveral other Officers of the Mint, have all of them their ſeveral Pattents under the Great Seal of *England* for their ſeveral places.

Now Alderman *Wollaſton's* place was worth every year to him more monie then all the aforeſaid Officers of the Mint, twice told; for every year hee cleared near three thouſand pounds a year, as I proved to the late King, and I can prove it to your *Highneſs*, the Parlament, and your Counſel, whenſoever you pleaſ: and all the Officers Fees in the Mint did not amount to one thouſand pounds a year. A ſtrange fraudulent trick, that a ſervant (for in the Mint Alderman *Wollaſton* was but the maſter workers of the mints ſervant) ſhould get ſix times more then his maſter, and three times more then all the Officers in the mint: It was the profits of this Place raiſed him principally to bee an Alderman.

But this is no great wonder, when the maſters of the mint (for many years) are and have been ignorant of the myſteries and perquiſites of their places, to the great dammage of the Nation in many particulars. In former times it was not ſo; Goldſmiths and Artiſts were maſters of the mint, that knew the courſe of Exchanges, and held Correſpondence with Forrain Bankers and merchants: no Age can ſhew (afore this) a Doctor of Phyſick maſter worker of the mint; and had not I ſtopped at one time

three hundred thouſand pounds of ſilver, the Irons in the mint would have been ruſtie. I cauſed more money to come to the mint at one time (1653) then hath been coyned this ſeven yeare beſides that money.

Upon this my Information to the King, hee preſently ſent for *Mr Andrew Palmer*, the Aſſay-maſter of the mint, and *Mr Henry Cogan*, the Comptroller of the mint, and examined the buſineſs about Alderman *Wollaſtons* Place in the Tower, and commanded mee to bee by, and to declare before them what I had told his *Majeſtie* concerning Alderman *Wollaſtons* Place of melter in the mint. And when they heard what I ſaid, they confeſſed it to bee a truth, that Alderman *Wollaſton* had in ten years (beeing eſteemed but as a ſervant by the condition of his Place in the mint to the Head-Officers, the maſter Worker and Warden of the mint) gotten more by his melting of the Silver in the mint, then all the Officers of the mint (put them all together) had done.

Whereupon the King was wonderfull angry with them, (they beeing his Officers in the Mint,) that they would ſuffer ſuch a thing, and not acquaint him or his Counſel with it; And asked, If my Lord Treaſurer, or Lord Cottington, *or the Lords of his Counſel allowed him to have ſuch Fees and allowances, or knew that* Wollaſton *made ſuch Gaines in the Mint, by being Melter of the Gold and Silver. They told his Majeſtie, No; they did believe none of them knew it, nor any others but the Officers of the Mint; for that it was a myſterie and few did know it: Thereupon, the King ſwore his Officers of his Mint muſt either bee Knaves or Foo's, to let ſuch an one as Alderman* Wollaſton *gull him of three thouſand pounds a year, and to give ſuch a Place of Profit to any, without his conſent or the conſent of his Privy Counſell, or any of his great Officers. And then the King ſolemnly proteſted, He would have an accompt & ſatisfaction for this Buſineſs; And that hee would not allow Alderman* VVollaſton *Thirty thouſand pounds for that hee could have done for One thouſand pounds. This was about ten daies before the King went*

from

from London, *and had hee ever came again in peace, (in my conſcience) this buſineſs had been called to a ſtrickt accompt: and the King thereupon gave mee* Thomas Violet *the place of Maſter of the Mint, and to have the fee of five hundred pounds a year, And that I ſhould execute* Alderman Wollaſtons *place, of melter without any fee upon account of the Maſters fee and no more: I was to melt the Gold and Silver upon oath, not to have any benefit but only my fee of five hundred pound a year, as maſter worker of the Mint:* Alderman Wollaſton *came to hear of this buſineſs afterwards, (in all likelyhood) by Mr.* Palmer *or Mr.* Cogan, *and this was the true cauſe of Sr* John Wollaſtons *getting mee to bee ſent to the Tower, when hee was Lord Maior of London.* One other cheif reaſon of my ſending to the Tower was; ſom Marchants of London and others (that had tranſported vaſt quantities of Gold and Silver out of the Nation, & had melted down many ſcore thouſand pounds of heavy currant Engliſh money, for gold and Silver wyer and plate) finding that I was commanded by Mr *Pym* and Mr *Hamden*, and other honorable members of Parlament to attend the houſ, about paſſing an Act of Parlament in the houſ, to queſtion all ſuch as had tranſported Gold or Silver, without licence, (The order for my proſecution of this buſineſs againſt the Tranſporters of gold is in the Journal book of the Parlament, 18th of March 1640. As will thereby appear, and the ſeverall orders and tranſactions thereupon) Therefore the tranſporters of Gold and Silver, and the cullers and melters of the heavie ſilver coyn of the Nation, fearing if I was not clapt up in the Tower, or ſome other place, they ſhould bee queſtioned for their tranſporting Gold and Silver: Theſe men cryed mee up in the Citty, and to the Parlament for a malignant, and incenſed ſom worthie members of Parlament againſt mee, that did not know theſe mens true reaſons, nor the bottom of their malice; ſo I was ſent to the Tower: *But in the mean time, what miſchief the Commonwealth hath gotten by not paſſing the Act againſt the tranſ-*

porting of Gold, which I was ordered by the Parlament, to proſecute, as appears by the Journals in Parlament, as I before ſaid 18th of March 1640. The not paſſing this Act hath given an opportunity that all the Gold is ſent out of the Nation, And now many propound the only remedy is to raiſe Gold (Not conſidering the great miſcheif and loſs that attends raiſing Gold or Silver) *The like miſchief will ſuddenly fall by ſuffering Goldſmiths to bee the publick Caſhiers, they, by that means, cull and melt down the heavy monies of the Nation, And when all is culled and melted down and tranſported, (as I have often times ſaid) then there will bee a propoſition for the raiſing of Silver, to the unſpeakable damage of all Landed Gentlemen, and the Nation in generall will bee impoveriſhed ſo much as you raiſ Gold or Silver.*

This miſchief hath com by ſuffering Goldſmiths to becom exchangers of Gold and Silver and forraign Coyns, whereas that doth only Properly by the Law of the Nation belong to your Highneſs, And till an exchange bee ſet up by your Highneſs, (and the Goldſmiths upon great penalties reſtrained only to their working of Plate and gold Rings and Iewels and ſelling them,) It is a thing impoſſible to prevent the tranſporting of Gold and Silver, as I have formerly ſhewed; which the Counſell for Trade will finde upon examination to bee true To which I humbly refer my ſelf.

May it pleaſ Your Highneſs!

I Had at this day kept theſe Trades Refiners, Goldwyer-drawers, Silkmen, Weavers and Button-makers (for ſo much as concerns the Silver) in that good order, by my Office of Surveyer and Sealer, that no courſe Silver ſhould bee made or ſpent in theſe manufactures. And I humbly ſay, I doubt not but I ſhall receive thanks from this Parlament and the Counſel of Trade for my care, in diſcovering ſo many of theſe deceipts and frauds in theſe Trades: As I ſhall particularly make appear before the Counſel of Trade upon examination of this Buſineſs, it will

will ſave the Nation and the wearers of Gold and Silver many thouſand pounds a year. My true end of doing this is, that the Trade may bee regulated, and my place of Surveyer and Sealer reſtored, and I authorized (as I was formerly) under the Great Seal of *England* to ſearch, ſurvey and ſeal all theſe manufactures, and to ſee them juſtly made, and to have ſuch a juſt Fee as may ſupport my expence, and in ſome reaſonable proportion pay for my paines and hazzard I undergo by warranting the manufacture of Gold and Silver thread, &c. to bee all good to the Nation, and made according to the Standard. The wearers will have this benefit, they ſhall bee ſecured of good Commodities, that doth laſt as long again as the greater part of the manufacture doth now; and when it returnes to the melting-pot, it will make them, in ſome ſorts of lace, as much again as it doth now; and it will ſave many thouſand pounds a year which is bruſhed and rubbed away, if the ſilver thread bee duely made with a due proportion of Silk, according to the juſt Rules as I ſetled formerly in my Office.

There are ſeveral unlawfull Engines, called *Wheels*, that twiſt the Silver on the Silk ſo ſleightly, that all thoſe that wear Silver ſpun by theſe *Wheels* are meerly deceived. The women Spinners (being ſome thouſands) have from time to time complained of them, both at the Counſel Table and at the former Counſel of Trade, and the Kings Commiſsioners by ſeveral Orders put down the *Wheels*. I moſt humbly deſire, the women Spinners, may bee heard at the Counſel of Trade, concerning that and other abuſes in this manufacture. They will acquaint them, that whereas good Gold and Silver thread ſhould hold ſix ounces of ſilver and three ounces of Silk ought to bee the due proportion for the making Needle gold and ſilver, and five ounces of ſilver to three ounces of Silk, of the ſleighteſt: now the manufacture is ordinarily made, for ſome ſorts of ſil-

ver thread ſix ounces ſilk to three ounces ſilver, and ſo the wearers are cozened half in half; beſides, the ſilver lace is ſo ſleightly made (for many ſorts thereof, being both courſ and adulterate, and ſo thinly covered that it loſeth the colour) is bruiſed and rubbed off from the Silk, and little returns to the melting-pot: Theſe particulars will clearly bee proved (before the Counſel of Trade upon examination) by hundreds of witneſſes when it comes to bee examined; And it is a great Abuſe put on the Nation.

Here follow the principal Heads of the Refiners Monopoly.

May it pleaſ your Highneſs;

IN the month of *May* 1636. an Indenture was ſealed between the late King on the one part, and Alderman *John Wollaſton* and Alderman *William Gibbs*, *Henry Patrickſon*, *Daniel Stallworthy*, *William Howard*, *Richard Gibbs*, *Thomas Nowell*, and *Walter Hill* of *London*, Refiners and parters of Gold and Silver, on the other part.

1 That the late King did by his Proclamacion, 18. *Jan.* 12. *Car.* declare his will and pleaſure, to bee for the time to com, that none of the Coyns, or Plate of this kingdom ſhould bee ſpent in the making of Gold, or Silver thread, wyer, purles, plate oas ſpangles &c. but of ſuch Silver only as ſhould bee ſupplied from farrain Parts, by ſuch perſons as his Majeſty ſhould thereunto appoint.

2 And that none of the currant Gold and Silver Coyns of

of this Realm, ſhould hereafter bee moulten down by any Refiner Goldſmith, or other perſon, And that all gold and ſilver whatſoever, which hereafter ſhould bee imployed, uſed, or ſpent about this Manufacture, ſhould bee refined prepared and diſgroſſed, only by ſuch perſons, as his Majeſtie ſhould aſsigne in that behalf, And ſhould be by them ſold and delivered, (and by no other) to all and every perſons which ſhould work the ſame.

3. *And that his Majeſties Agents ſhould take care upon the vending or ſale of any Gold or Silver, to any perſon or perſons whatſoever, for the uſes aforeſaid; that there bee anſwered and paid to his Majeſties uſe, ſix pence an ounce Troy in wyer, of all Silver ſould, aſwell toward the proviſion of Bullion from beyond Seas, as for recompence of ſuch loſs his Majeſtie ſuſtained in his cuſtomes by the leſs importation of the premiſes.*

4 His Majeſtie having had experience of the Abilities, and Skill of the ſaid *John Wollaſton, William Gibbs, Henry Patrickſon, Daniel Stallworthie, William Haward, Richard Gibbs, Thomas Nowell,* and *Walter Hill,* (*who, as his Majeſties* Agents appointed by his majeſtie, hath ſince the aforeſaid regulation, ſould all the aforeſaid Silver and Gold, for the aforeſaid manufactures) And in further purſuance and execution of his majeſties intention hath appointed conſtituted and made for him & his heires and ſucceſſors, and did by the ſaid Indenture appoint conſtitute & make the aforeſaid *John Wollaſton, William Gibbs, Henry Patrickſon, Daniell Stallworthie, William Howard, Richard Gibbs, Thomas Noell,* and *Walter Hill,* and the ſurvyvors of them, The Agents, *of his Majeſtie his heires and ſucceſſors, for the furniſhing, refining, diſſgroſsing and ſelling one Hundred Thouſand Pounds,*

Here the Refiners in this Monopoly are called his Majeſties Agents. They made ſuch a bargain with the King, that Cap. Williams offered to furniſh the ſilver 2000. l. a year cheaper (and to put in ſecurity of 10000 l for performance) then the ſaid Monopoliſts did force the Wyer-drawers, to pay: for all other Perſons, their Indenture

but the Kings Agents, were prohibited to ſel ſilver for this Manufacture, as appears by under the great Seal. This Monopoly is flat againſt the Letter of the Law 21. Jac. chap. 3.

worth of Silver and Gold yearly, and every year, or yearly ſo much more thereof as ſhall or may bee by them jointly vended, uttered, or ſold, in the making the Premiſes: which ſhall bee devided into thirty two parts and ſhares; John Wollaſton ſhall have the furniſhing and ſelling of Eight parts of the Thirty two parts, William Gibbs ſhall have the providing and ſelling of other eight parts of the ſaid Thirty two parts, Henry Patrickſon of two parts and one quarter part of the ſaid thirty two parts, Daniel ſtallworthie ſhall have the ſelling of three parts, and one quarter part of the Thirty two parts. *William Haward* ſhall have the refining and ſelling of two parts, and one quarter part. *Richard Gibbs* ſhall have the refining and ſelling of three parts of the ſaid Thirty two parts. *Thomas Nowell* ſhall have the providing, refining, and ſelling of two parts and a quarter of the ſaid Thirty two parts. And *Walter Hill* ſhall have the providing and furniſhing, refining and ſelling three parts of the ſaid Thirty two parts.

I beſeech you Note, Alderman Wollaſton, and Alderman Gibbs have 16 ſhares of 32 a full half of the Trade of all the Reſt of the Refiners, who all of them had great houſes, wives, and families to maintain: And they two, for their particular, ſold their ſilver for above a thouſand pound a year dearer then it was offered by ſeveral people to furniſh the workers. And Alderman *Gibbs* and Alderman *Wollaſton* had both of them their pardons for abuſes practiſed by them in their Trades: ſo that this Monopolie did their work every way. but, had the Law been followed againſt them, for abuſes don by them in their Trade, they had been undone.

I moſt humbly deſire your Highneſs *to bee pleaſed to obſerv, Mr* William Haward *was formerly Mr Alderman* Gibb's *man, and one of the Kings Agents in this Monopoly with Alderman* Gibbs *and Alderman* Wollaſton. *Mr* William Haward *was queſtioned by mee, and proved to have counterfeited the currant Gold and Silver monies of this Nation, and for making Gold and Silver Wyer with a core of Copper (which was one half Silver and one half Copper) which hee made into Gold and Silver Wyer and Thread, and ſold it for good Gold and Silver Wyer and Thread; and I cauſed him to bee apprehended, and his tools ſeized on at* Old Windſor, *twenty miles from* London: *And afterwards I took him in* Southwark, *with one* Morſe *a Refiner (as cunning a Rogue for counterfeiting of money as ever was of the Trade of Refiners); Mr* Haward *hee had the common luck*

of

of the Refiners, for hee had his pardon for his offences; viz. Coyning of Money. An ordinary Crime with ſome Refiners.

Mr William Morſe (*Mr* William Hawards *man; another Refiner alſo*) *I took him with a Porters load of Coyning Irons in* St Thomas *the Apoſtle in* Southwark; *hee was both Coyning and making Silver (at one time) with a core of Copper, half Silver and half Copper, to make Gold and Silver Thread. I have the Aſſaies under Mr* Jacksons *hand, the ſworn Aſſaymaſter of Goldſmiths-hall: And this Silver and Copper Wyer was made into Thread, and was uſually ſold for good Silver by* Mr Morſe, Mr Mantle, *and* Mr Rhodes: *I took* Mr Rhodes, *Mr* Clark *and Mr* Mantle (*Wyer-drawers*) *making of Spangles above one third part Copper, mixed with the Silver, within the Rules of the* Kings Beneh (*they thought they had been ſafe there in a Priſon, but my Officers I imploied found them out*). *Likewiſe I took one Mr* Geares, *and cauſed him to bee Indicted at the Seſſions Houſe in the* Old Baily; (*this was after I had found him working at the* Old Ford, *in* Shoreditch, White Chappell, Goodmans Fields, *and in other blinde Places*) *and when I ſaw hee would take no warning, I cauſed him to ſtand in the Pillory, for ſelling ſilver with a core of Copper for good Silver; I imploied all the year four men in the four parts of the City and Suburbs to make theſe ſearches and ſeiſures, and they were paid one hundred pound a year, during all the time I had the Office.* This Geares *made many thouſand pounds of Gold and Silver thread, half Copper and half Silver, and ſold it all for good Silver in* London. *I did alſo upon ſearch ſeize upon ſeveral quantities of Silver Lace mixed with Copper, in Alderman* Garwayes *Hands (which by ſeveral Wyer drawers and others was ſold to Merchants that traded to* Ruſsia); *and there it was found out and detected by the* Ruſsians, *and ſent back to* England *to the Governour of the Company (Alderman* Garway) *to have theſe Wyer-drawers in* London *found out and puniſhed, that had diſhonoured the Nation in making Gold and Silver lace mixed with Copper, and ſelling it to* Ruſsia *Merchants for good ſilver. This Lace*

was one Mr Sand's lace (Sr George Sand's brother) who was deceived in it. I made Twentie men runn away about this Buſineſs.

There have been within this few years ſeveral other Refiners and Goldſmiths indicted at the Seſſions Houſ in the Old Bayly for counterfeiting gold and ſilver, (the Coins of the Nation) who have ſo craftily managed their buſineſs, that ſome of them have eſcaped hanging by miracle.

If I have my Office eſtabliſhed again, I wiſh them to forbare coming thither to the Old Bayly, any more for I know by what tricks they have deceived the Jurie and the Court. Theſe men and their fellows are angrie with mee and would by no means have mee to have the looking after the regulating of the Trade of gold and ſilver Wyer and Thread. And indeed they have reaſon; for (had I my Office again for Sealing and Surveying this Manufacture) I ſhould ſpoil many a mans cozening Trade, which hee daily now practiſeth, in deceiving the Commonwealth by the deceitfull making theſe Manufactures of ſilver Wyer and ſilver Thread &c. For I found out where Silkmen had ſold to ſome of the Nobilitie and ſome Honorable perſons ſilver lace mixed with Copper for good Silver. I cauſed the offenders to bee proſecuted in the Starr Chamber for it; and cauſed them to make it good to the parties wronged. In brief, for Five years I cauſed all the Gold and Silver that was ſpent in this manufacture to bee duely and juſtlie made: (The value yearly out of Silkmens ſhops in London, when it was made into Lace and Ribbins, Spangles, Oes &c amounted to above Two Hundred thouſand pounds a year Starling, as I have calculated it by my Accompts; for it all paſſed my Seal and Survey, either by mee or my Deputies, ſuch as I was to anſwer to the Commonwealth for the true performance of their Places, and gave Securitie in the Exchequer for their juſt performance.) I cauſed all theſe manufactures to bee made ſo juſtly and exactly as the Plate and money of the Nation.

And though ſome that I cauſed to bee puniſhed for their cheating were and are angrie with mee, and got others to back them with

com-

complaints; by their petitioning to the Parlament in 1641. That I had cauſed ſome of them to bee impriſoned, diſturbed them in their Trades, and ſpoyled and defaced their Wyer, Tread, and Spangles &c. and made ſearches and ſeiſures in their ſhops and houſes. Trulie I confeſs this part of their petition was true, when I found their Silver was adulterated.

This I did whileſt I had my Office. And afterwards, for want of doing it, the Nation was Cozened, and at this day is Cozened (as I can ſhew in one hundred and odd ſeveral parcels of courſ and adulterate Silver and gold Lace, Spangles, Purl, Oes and Wyer) All under the hand of Mr Alexander Jackſon ſworn Aſſay-maſter of Goldſmiths Hall.

For the cheating Fellows of the City (let them bee either Wyerdrawers, Silkmen, or Refiners) I dare ſware (whether they bee rich or poor) I gave them little reaſon to love mee or wiſh mee well; for I hindred them as much as I could: And I never knew a Thief love a Judg heartily. But there are honeſt men of theſe Trades, both Refiners and Gold-Wyerdrawers, and Workmen, which deſire, I may have my place reſtored to mee; and that wiſh, the abuſes of their Trades and Manufactures may bee redreſſed: For all honeſt workmen are undone for want of a regulation, and power to bee ſettled on ſome ſelect perſons to puniſh, the offenders; And reduce their number, only to ſuch as have ſerved Apprentices to the trades, and to make the workers to conform themſelves to ſuch orders as your Highneſs and Parlament ſhall ſee beſt for the preventing the waſte of the Coyn, and Plate of the Nation. I have humbly preſented a Model for a Regulation of the abuſes to the counſell of Trade to which I humly refer.

May it please your *Highness*,

ALderman *Gibbs* and Alderman *Wollaston*, &c. were authorized in any part of the Realm of *England* and Dominion of *Wales*, by their Monopoly to prepare and fine One hundred thousand pounds in silver and gold yearly and every year; or somuch thereof as may yearly by them bee joindy vended, uttered or sold, according to the Rates and Provisions aforesaid. To have and to hold the said powers, licences and authorities, and all and singular the premisses unto them the said *John Wollaston, William Gibbs, Henry Patrickson, Daniel Stallworthy, William Haward, Richard Gibbs, Thomas Nowel*, and *Walter Hill*, during the term of seven years, from thence forth next ensuing fully to bee compleated and ended; *And that without any accompt to bee made for the same to his Majestie his Heirs or Successors.*

5. And they Covenant they will sell no silver or gold for these Manufactures, but to such persons that shall bee admitted to work and bee allowed to buy the same. And also that they shall and will pay the aforesaid Duties to his Majestie his Heirs and Successors, which was sixpence upon every ounce *Troy* of Silver spent in this Manufacture.

6. They Covenant with the King, that they nor their servants shall not melt down or bee consenting to the melting down of any the currant Coynes of the King his Heirs or Successors, or the Plate of the Nation, for any the Manufactures aforesaid, except such onely as shall arise and return off and from any gold and silver Thread, Lace, Purles, Oas, Spangles or Wyer, or shall bee imported from the parts beyond the Seas, and hath not been manufactured in this Nation.

And

And all and ſingular theſe Grants, Powers, Licences and Authorities before given and granted, they ſhall lawfully uſe and enjoy, notwithſtanding the Statute made in the fourth year of *Hen.* 7th *cap.* 2. and notwithſtanding the Statute made in the 5th and 6th years of *Edw.* 6th *cap.* 19. intituled, *The Penaltie for Exchange of Gold and Silver.* And notwithſtanding the Statute of 18 *Eliz. cap.* 15. or any other Act, Statute, Law, Ordinance, Proclamation, Proviſion or reſtriction whatſoëver to the contrary in any wiſe notwithſtanding. And his Majeſtie for Him and his Heirs and Succeſſors did will, ordain and declare, that during the continuance of this his Grant, his Majeſtie his Heirs and Succeſſors will not give or grant any libertie, licence, or power, or authoritie to any perſon whatſoëver, other then unto ſuch as have already ſerved or ſhall hereafter ſerve as Apprentices wholly and only to the Art of Refining and parting Gold and Silver by the ſpace of ſeven years (as the ſaid *John Wollaſton*, *William Gibbs*, and other the parties before named have done) to bee made, expended and imploied in or about the making gold or ſilver thread, or any the ſeveral Manufactures herein before mentioned.

Alderman *Gibbs* and Alderman *Wollaſton* binde their Monopoly to them as faſt as they can; it muſt break through all former Laws for their private and particular profit; it muſt oppreſs Goldſmiths, Wyerdrawers, Silkmen, and all other Tradeſmen whatſoëver: Their Monopoly muſt go through thick and thin, though againſt the Law; no Act, Statute or Ordinance, Proclamation, Proviſion or Reſtriction formerly made whatſoever, ſhall or can ſtop or contradict them; this was the pace and furious carreer of Alderman *Gibbs* and Alderman *Wollaſton* while they were the Kings Agents in the Kings name: but to ſave their ſkins (when the times altered) they could preſently change their notes, put on ſheep-ſkins and would appear as Lambs; they would be full of godlie expreſſions in Guild-hall, Goldſmiths-hall, and many other places in the City, and bee highly for the Covenant, and amongſt their Brethren ſtorm at the oppreſſion of the Times, and at Projectors and Monopolizers (when there was none greater then themſelvs, as appears by this Monopoly). They have ſaid at a common Hall in Guild-hall (when I was ſent to the *Tower*) that I was the Monopoliſt and Pattentee for this Manufacture, when truly I neither had heart or hand in it, nor any manner of wales concerned in the buying or ſelling the ſilver Wyer for this Manufacture. If I would, I could not; for the aforeſaid Indenture between the King, *Gibbs* and *Wollaſton* ſets forth, that onely eight Refiners were the Pattentees, and none others.

And the afore-ſaid perſons every one for himſelf did covenant and promiſe to and with his Majeſtie his Heirs and Succeſſors, that from time to time, during the terme granted, to perform their beſt endeavors in and by all lawfull waies and means for the promoting and advancing of his *Majeſties* benefit and ſervice in the premiſſes.

And his *Majeſtie*, for him, his Heirs and Succeſſors, during the term thereby granted, did Covenant to vouchſafe his and their aſſiſtance to the ſaid Agents and the Survivors of them, for the better performance and diſcharging of the ſaid Agencie, and all other the premiſſes ſo by them undertaken, according to the tenor and true meaning of the ſaid Grant: In witneſs whereof, to the one part of this Indenture remaining with the ſaid Agents, Our Sovereign Lord the King hath cauſed the Great Seal of *England* to bee put; And the other part remaining with his ſaid *Majeſtie*, the ſaid *John Wollaſton*, *William Gibbs*, *Henry Petrickſon*, *Daniel Stallworthy*, *William Haward*, *Richard Gibbs*, *Thomas Nowell*, and *Walter Hill* have ſet their hands and Seals the day and year firſt above written, *Anno Dom.* 1636. Witneſs Our Self at *Weſtminſter* the 7th daie of *May*, in the twelfth year of our Reign.

I have the Copie of this Monopoly of the Refiners verbatim *at large, ſworn and atteſted; ready to bee produced, if required.*

May it pleaſe your Highneſs;

THeſe are the chief Heads of the *Monopolie* granted by the late King *Charles* 1636. to Sir *John Wollaſton* Alderman, and Alderman *William Gibbs*, and others, Refiners of the City of *London*.

This

This monopolie was complained of to the late King and his Counſel by ſome of the Wardens and Companie of the Goldſmiths in *Anno* 1636. and ſince oftentimes to the late King and his Commiſsioners, both by ſeveral Goldſmiths and Wyerdrawers (as being a great loſs and abuſe to the whole Company of Goldſmiths) in *Annis* 1637, 1638, and 1639. and is againſt the Statute of 21. *Jac. cap.* 3. and ſeveral other Acts of Parlament, and againſt the Common Law of the Land, and the Charter of the City of *London.*

By this monopoly they ingroſsing into a few particular mens hands for their private lucre and gain (under the ſpecious pretence of the Kings ſervice, which was the ordinary maſk uſed by Pattentees and Monopoliſts of that time) the lively-hood and ſubſiſtance of many hundred Goldſmiths and Wyerdrawers, which by the Charter of the Company of Goldſmiths ought not to have been debarred, and by the cuſtom of the City of *London* were legally impowered to refine Silver and Gold, aſwell as the ſaid Refiners were.

And though this was oftentimes offered, it was alwaies denied and oppoſed by the Refiners, who had got this monopoly in their Iron clutches, and would not let go their hold, till their monopolie was put down by the Parlament, upon the Petition of the Gold-wyer-drawers, as aforeſaid.

I have left with the honorable Committee for Trade, (in Aug. 1656.*) ſeveral humble Propoſals for the juſt and due regulation of this Trade of Refining and Gold and Silver-wyer-drawing. If they bee put in execution, the Manufacture will bee again juſtly and truly made, the Coyn and Bullion of the Nation preſerved, and your* Highneſs *Revenue augmented: But, as the Manufacture of Gold and Silver Thread, &c. is now made, the wearers thereof are many of them cozened, and the Coyns and Plate of the Na-*

tion melted (to the great dammage of the Nation) and every day new Cheats are invented, to deceive the Wearers by Wheels or Engines. Therefore I most humbly pray for either a due Reguzlation of Gold and Silver Thread and Wyer, &c. or the making to bee put down in England, especially at this time now wee have a Warr with Spain, strictly to look that none of the Coyns of the Nation, or Plate, bee melted down for any of these Manufactures.

8. That within these three months (in *June* last) Mr *Alexander Jackson* (the Assaie-master of Goldsmiths-hall) beeing desired to go to the Excize-Office, to make an assay of some Silver that was made into Wyer for this manufacture, seized on an Ingott of course Silver about 30l. *which was thirteen penny weight worse then the Standard; And weekly (upon strict examination) it will bee found that great quantities of course silver hath been made into these Manufactures. This Silver (as I am informed) belongs to a Refiner, and it is both contrary to the Law and a breach of his Oath to prepare any such Silver for any Manufacture.*

I have many Assayes under Mr Jacksons *hand (the Assaymaster of Goldsmiths-hall) where four ounces of Copper hath been mixed and put into eight ounces of Silver, and sold for good Silver (by some Silkmen and Wyer-drawers), to the intolerable deceipt of the Wearers of gold and silver Lace.*

And whereas all persons should make gold and silver Thread to hold six ounces Silver to three ounces of Silk, it hath been ordinary, and at this day is made, to six ounces of Silk but three ounces of Silver; the Silk many times heavy died; the Wearers many of them are cozened, and their garments spoyled: And many other Cheats and frauds I could particularize.

9. When I delivered an Accompt of these gross deceipts to the King and Lords, and upon examination they finding these Abuses to bee so frequent both amongst Refiners, Silkmen and Wyer-drawers; The King and Lords of

his

his Councel having often imployed mee in theſe Diſcoveries of the fraudes of the Wyerdrawers, *They ordered mee* Thoms Violet *Anno* 1635. *to bee Surveyer and Sealer of all theſe manufactures, for three lives, under the Great Seal of* England; *And to have and receiv to my own uſe One Halfpenny the Ounce for* Wyer, *and* 4 *Pence the pound* Venice *for all gold and ſilver* Thread *I Sealed and Surveyed: And prohibited all perſons to put* ſilver *or* gold Thread *to Sale before it was warranted by the Seal of my Office, being the* Roſe *and* Crown.

In conſideration of this Fee aforeſaid I Covenanted, and put in Securitie to the late King in the Exchequer; That if any gold or ſilver Thread, Spangles, Purls, Oes, or Wyer ſhould bee Surveyed and Sealed, or paſſed out of my Office either by mee or my Deputie, which was courſ or adulterate ſilver, under ſterling, or not juſtlie made; the Thread with a due proportion of ſilver, at the leaſt five ounces ſilver to three ounces ſilk: I was bound, and am bound to this day, to anſwer and pay all Damages to any perſon grieved or wronged in the Nation, concerning the Premiſes. And neither the Wyerdrawers nor Silkmen could in Parlament produce one parcel of ſilver thread that I ſealed in the Office, or that was ſealed by my Officers, to be courſ ſilver, or under the Standard. And for five years I cauſed this Manufacture to bee made ſo exactly as the money and Plate of the Nation is now made; and the beſt gold and ſilver Thread in the world.

Without my Fees which were allowed mee under the great Seal of England *I could not bee at the Charge of ſearching and Sealing; and without my Sealing and Surveying I cannot warrant this Manufacture of gold and ſilver Thread and Wyer &c. to bee good, and truely made, both for the fineneſs of the ſilver and a due proportion of ſilver to a due proportion of ſilk: and without this Regulation, everie workman is left to do what hee liſt, both for the fineneſs of the ſilver, and the due proportion of ſilver to ſilk. And at this day (for want of my Office) many frauds and deceipts are put on the Nation and all them that wear this Manufacture, which*

I am bound to prevent, or make good the Damage to the Nation, or to any that ſhall bee deceived: Which cannot bee exſpected from mee unleſs I receiv my Fee to defray my Charge and hazzard I run in warranting all this Manufacture to bee good, and juſtly made: *And of the juſtice and Equity of this I conceiv there can bee no diſpute.*

May it pleaſ your Highneſs,

NOw, at this day the Manufacture of gold and ſilver Thread, Wyer, Spangles, Oes, &c. is under no Rule nor Regulation; either for the Fineneſs of the ſilver, or the juſt and due making the ſilver thread with a due Proportion of ſilver to a due proportion of true died ſilk; but it is left to every one to do what hee liſts, and to Cozen the Commonwealth; and to cull and melt down the Coins of the Nation: And if the Refiners can get but the Goldſmiths to melt down the heavie Coins as ſhillings, ſixpences and halfcrowns, which they do at this day, and as they are wont to do ever when ſilver is above the price of the Mint; or when wee have Wars with *Spain*, then generally ſilver is dearer then the Price of the Mint.

The Refiners think themſelves clear, and the Law cannot touch them if they buy heavie ſhillings and ſixpences melted into Ingots: And by this way all the heavie currant ſilver monies and Coin of this Nation is melted down. This heavie, *Engliſh* ſilver monie (for the greater part) is culled and weighed by Goldſmiths in *Lumbard-ſtreet*, who keep people purpoſely to cull and weigh the heavie ſhillings and ſixpences of this Nation, when ſilver is dear.

May it pleaſ your Highneſs, Wee ſhall not have monie

to

to buy and ſell, nor to hold Commerce, nor pay Rent or publick Duties, if this miſchief bee not ſtopped.

When I was an Apprentice, I delivered with mine own hands, for one Mr *Eman*'s Account (who was my Maſter) to Alderm. *Gibbs* above thirtie thouſand Pounds of heavie ſhillings ſixpences and halfcrowns, which hee bought of my Maſter Mr *Timothy Emans* a Goldſmith in *Lumbard* Street; The ſaid Mr *Emans* then being a publiuqe Caſhier for ſeverall Marchants, and receiving their monie, and keeping their Caſhes: by which means hee culled, and cauſed to bee culled and melted everie year in heavie ſhillings and ſixpences above Thirtie thouſand pounds a year, from the year 1624 to the year 1630 into Barrs or Ingots. And there was many Goldſmiths in *Lumbard* ſtreet at that time, everie of theſe years did melt as much heavie *Engliſh* monie, and ſome of them more then Mr *Emans* did. And *Engliſh* ſilver was at that time ſo ſcarce, one could hardlie get white monie *Anno* 1629 for gold but now almoſt all the ſilver, and almoſt all the gold is gon, the ſilver melted down for gold and ſilver Lace: The gold almoſt all Tranſported, that in a payment of ten thouſand pounds one ſhall not receiv Ten ſhillings in gold.

Alderman *Gibbs* would never have theſe ſhillings, ſixpences, and halfcrowns from *Mr Eman* in *Kinde*, but the propemie altered, and melted into Ingots; though hee knew and bargained for *Engliſh* monie by the name of *Swarg*, to bee melted without fraud; being a common word amongſt the Goldſmiths for heavie *Engliſh* monie. Whereupon my Maſter commanded mee to put in everie Ingot ſo much Copper as the ſilver waſted, which was about a farthing the ounce: *For Mr* Eman *ſelling the heavy ſhillings halfcrowns and ſixpenſes to other Refiners and Silverſmiths in Kinde without melting, would not bear the waſte of melting Mr* Gibbs's *Engliſh money into Ingotts.*

But Alderman Gibbs *finding my Maſters Silver a farthing in five ſhillings courſer then other Goldſmiths in* Lumbard Sreet

Silver was, who melted down their heavie Engliſh *monies. Mr Alderman* Gibbs *one day asked mee ſeriouſly about it; I told him, my Maſter had given mee order to put in ſo much Copper as would bear the waſte of the ſilver; and that I did believ, I had put in and mixed as much Copper into his Ingots, by my Maſters order and for his Profit, at ſeverall times, within Four years, for which Alderman* Gibbs *had paid for to my Maſter after the price of good Silver, as came to above One Hundred and Fortie Pounds Starling.*

Mr Alderman *Gibbs* had a pair of Aſſay Ballances in his cloſet, and when hee queſtioned mee about this Buſineſs, hee weighed above fortie ſeverall Aſſayes of my Maſter *Eman*'s ſilver with the Standard Piece, and all of them fell out one penny weight ſhort; and then hee took about forty other Aſſayes of one Mr *Bradſhaw*'s Silver (as hee told mee,) and Alderman *Gibbs* ſaid to mee, This is heavy *Engliſh* mony in Ingots, which I have and do daily buy of Mr *Bradſhaw*, and weigh your Maſters Aſſayes againſt his. So I did, and found my Maſters Silver all one penny weight ſhort of Mr *Bradſhaw*'s Silver. Thereuppon Alderman *Gibbs* was very hot and angry with mee, and told mee, hee was cozened, for my Maſter had put Copper into his Silver, and made him pay for good heavy Engliſh money to bee melted without Copper; hee preſſing mee very earneſtly; I told him, I had done it for ſeveral years by my Maſters order, and hee muſt ſeek his remedie from my Maſter *Eman*; for I would ſhew him my Maſters Books every week where I had put the Copper down upon the Accompt, for my Maſters Profit, and that I did believ, my Maſter had delivered him to the value of One Hundred and Forty Pounds in Copper, in his Ingots, for which hee had paid my Maſter *Eman* for good ſilver.

Whereupon Alderman *Gibbs* a few dayes after queſtioned my Maſter *Emans* about it, who did not denie it; and Alderman *Gibbs* threatned to Arreſt him, and was in a great rage about it, that hee ſhould bee ſo over-reached and deceived: But my *Maſter Mr Emans* ſlighted the buſineſs, and in plain termes bid him do it if hee durſt; ſo that Alderman *Gibbs* there (for all his craft) was Cozened of one hundred and fortie Pounds, Alderman *Gibbs* paying for good Silver when hee received Copper mixed in every Ingot.

The true reaſon wherefore Alderman Gibbs *forbare to Arreſt Mr* Eman *was, hee durſt not have done it if hee had cozened him of ten times as much; for if Alderman* Gibbs *and Mr* Eman *had gone to Law about this matter, the whole buſineſs of both their unlawfull actions in this Cauſ would have been made known to the world,*

world, and both Mr Eman *and Mr* Gibbs *would have beene undone. Mr* Eman *could have given Mr* Gibbs *ſatisfaction for this wrong well enough, if hee had had a minde to have done it; for Mr* Eman *had then a better Eſtate then Alderman* Gibbs, *and both of them (by this act) had forfeited their Eſtates to the King, it being againſt the Laws of this Nation to melt the* Engliſh *currant Coines. This was done in the year* 1629. *And had I ſpake but one word of this buſineſs to Sr* Henry Mildemay or *Mr Attorney General, or unto the late King* Charles, *(as I had oftentimes oportunity to have done it, being then imploied by the late King in ſeveral buſineſſes by his particular Command; which, had I done it before the ſaid Alderman* Gibbs *had had his Pardon, Alderman* Gibbs *had been for ever ſpoiled for being an Alderman; hee might have had a Jack-line about his neck, ſooner then a Gold Chain, Alderman* Gibbs *and* Mr Eman *having by this act forfeited all their Eſtates to the late King.*

Theſe abuſes are commonly practiſed both amongſt the Refiners and Goldſmiths at this day, without any ſcruple of Conſcience, or honeſtie, or fear of the Law; and (if not prevented) will undoe and waſte the ſtock of the Nation. If Culling and melting down of the hevie currant monie bee not prevented, the Nation in Generall will not have monie to pay Rents, go to market, or pay Taxes: and this buſineſs to bee neglected, without a ſtrict Act of Parlament to diſcover the Offenders, will bring intolerable miſchiefs.

I have preſented this Buſineſs many times to the long Parlament, *who made many Orders and References for paſſing an Act againſt melting of the Currant Silver Coins of the Nation, and againſt the Tranſporting of Gold and Silver. But it was not finiſhed.*

The humble Propoſals of many hundred Spinners to the Counſell of Trade, for the Regulating of the Manufacture of Gold & Silver Thread within this Nation, formerly preſented to the Counſel of Trade at *White-hall* 1650. which ſet forth many of the Abuſes in the preſent making Gold and Silver Thread, and they humbly deſire a Regulation.

1. *THat all work in Gold and Silver Thread may bee wrought by the hand-Spinner, and the Wheeles totally ſuppreſſed.*

2. *But if your Honors ſhall permit the Wheels to work* ſuperfine *Gold and Silver Thread, that your Honors would tie them to their Numbers, and that they preſent unto your Honors the place of their abode, and that ſuch Penalties be put on them, as to your Honors ſhall ſeem agreeable to Juſtice, if they work any other then* ſuperfine *Thread.*

3. *That no Silver bee ſpun (either by the hand or Wheels) but ſhall contain at leaſt five ounces Silver on a pound* Venice; *and all Needle-gold and ſilver to hold ſix ounces gold and ſilver to nine ounces Thread, and ſo all fine ſilver: and by this Rule the Commonwealth ſhall not bee cheated.*

4. *That the names of all men and women admitted to make gold and ſilver Thread or Wyer bee kept in a Regiſter, where they live, and all people that are admitted, to put in ſecurity to the*

the State, not to work any of theſe Manufactures contrary to the Regulation agreed by your Honors.

5. *That a ſworn Surveyer, that is no Trader in the Manufactures, may have the ſurveying and examining of all the Manufactures, and that hee bee required to look carefully thereunto; and that all ſuch Regulations deſired in our Petition may bee taken into your Honors conſiderations, and the weight of Silver agreed on, what ſhall bee laid on the ſleighteſt Thread on the pound* Venice; *which wee humbly deſire (as aforeſaid) five ounces* Troy *to one pound* Venice, *and ſix ounces* Troy *to nine ounces* Troy *Needle-work; or a greater proportion of Silver to Silk, if it ſhall upon examination by your Honors bee found to bee fitting. The truth is, the hand-Spinners cannot make the ſilver Thread ſo ſleight as the Wheels, and lay on ſo little Silver as they do; and that makes the Workmaſters ſtand ſo much for the Wheeles; They ſerving their poor hand-Spinners, as wee have been informed formerly ſom Silkmen did the Silk-dyers,* give them raw Silk, and if they did not make one pound weight ſo many ounces more then it ought to weigh, being juſtly dyed, the Silkmen would abate it out of their wages for dying: *So the poor Spinners, if they will not ſpin their Silver ſleight to ſome of their Workmaſters, and make Silk go farther then it ought to do if the ſilver Thread bee ſerviceable, they ſhall have no more work; and ſome of them have their wages abated them, and their Workmaſters tell them, They cannot make ſtuff yield ſo much as the Wheels.*

6. *Whereas your Honors aſk us, Which is the beſt cheap to the Common-wealth, either the Wheel-work or the hand-Spinners work: to that wee humbly anſwer; That is beſt cheap to any man that wears it, that laſts moſt and longeſt upon a garment, and not that which is bruſhed and the winde blows away; and that is beſt cheap that yields moſt to the melting-pot, when it comes to bee burned, and that is our Hand-work; for the Wheel-work, the Silver is almoſt all blown away.*

7. *The wheel-Spinners cannot make any Needle work, which is the chiefeſt and richeſt work; and all. Imbroidrie is made by the hand-Spinners work, and Fringe-makers muſt work with hand-Spinners work, if they will work good: and what work is made by the wheels, generally is ſleight cheating ſtuff.*

8. *The late King put down the wheels, and cauſed them to bee broken in pieces, that wee poor Women might have a livelyhood (being in and about this City many thouſands, that live on the Manufacture of gold and ſilver Thread): the greateſt of the number of theſe wheels have been ſet up ſince there was no regulation in the Trade, and that every one might work what hee liſt, ſince the Office Mr Violet had (for ſeeing this Manufacture made good) was put down: By which means the Manufacture is grown out of Eſteem; and without your Honors take ſome ſtrict courſe, the Deceipts will daily encreaſe.*

9. *And if there bee not a ſworn Officer to do Juſtice, ſome of the Wyer-drawers will force ſome poor hand-Spinners to make ſleight ſilver Thread, which their neceſsity will compell them to do, to keep them from famiſhing; and the work ſo made is fitter to burn then for any other uſe.*

10. *Whereas the wheel men ſay, They were bound Apprentices to the Trade of Spinning gold and ſilver Thread, wee deny that any was bound to the Trade*

11. *If the Wyerdrawers would deal truly with your Honors, they could tell you, it is their great gain they make by the cheating wheel-work, more then by our labor which work good work, that makes them ſo ſtickle for their wheels. Wee do humbly deſire, that ſome of the prime Taylors and Silkmen and Goldſmiths may bee warned to attend your Honors: the Goldſmith will ſatisfie you what a ſleight return the Silver wheel-work makes to the melting pot, being almoſt all waſted, and blown away with the winde: The*

Taylor

Taylor will tell you, they are almoſt aſhamed to ſow it on; And the honeſt Silkman could wiſh all ſleight wheel-work were put down, but that they muſt bee forced to ſell ſuch as their Neighbours do, or elſe loſe their Cuſtom. The Silver Thread is worſe made now and ſleighter then ever it was; many ſorts of Silver Thread having not half the proportion of Silver it ought to have, and as it had, when Tho. Violet *had the Regulation.*

THere was ſeveral perſons deſired the Counſel of Trade, that *Thomas Violet* (who was formerly imploied in the Regulation of this Manufacture, and knoweth the way of diſcovering all the Frauds in this manufacture) may have the Place of ſurveying and ſearching for all courſe and adulterate Silver in thread and wyer, and to ſeal all good Gold and Silver-thread. The ſaid *Thomas Violet* from time to time to ſearch with the Wardens and Aſſiſtants of the Companie of Goldwyerdrawers, or by himſelf and his Officers, for all courſe Silver that is wrought in this Manufacture to the deceipt of the Nation. And that the ſaid *Thomas Violet* may have ſuch allowance for the executing of the ſaid Office, as may enable him to defray the neceſſary charges for the ſtrict ſearch and due regulation of this manufacture; for it cannot bee well done without a great deal of charges.

If your Honors truſt the management of this Manufacture only to the Wyerdrawers, without naming and appointing a ſworn Surveyer & Sealer of this Manufacture, one who is no Trader in theſe Commodities, (the Buſineſs to bee carried on ſingly by the Wyer-drawers) will never do your work to have a juſt Reformation: For everie Maſter-wyer-drawer will winck one at another, and they will by that means (under colour of Reformation) cozen

the Nation by a Law, as was done in the dying of Silk: when the Silkmen had the Regulation, all ſuch perſons the Company envied, were found out and puniſhed; in the mean time, the Governers, *Maſters* and Aſsiſtants they cheated and cozened the Nation more then ever it was before, and no man durſt ſay, *Black was their Eye.*

The like Abuſes and greater will bee practiſed, if the management of the manufacture of Gold and Silver wyer bee wholly left to the Refiners and Wyerdrawers, without a third perſon which is no Trader, either Refiner or Wyerdrawer, and therefore not intereſſed by benefit to bee corrupted by making the manufacture ſleight or deceipt-full: And this wee can ſay, If there bee any Refiner or Wyerdrawer angrie with Mr *Violet*, it is becauſe he would not ſuffer them to cozen the Common-wealth, but cut and defaced all ſleight Gold and Silver thread. And hee tied all the workmen to make good and juſt Gold and Silver thread, ſuch as was juſtly covered with a due proportion of Silver, to a due proportion of Silk, that would laſt twice as long to the wearer as the ſleight wheel-work.

For whereas *Thomas Violet* by himſelf and his Officers cauſed the Gold-wyer-drawers to work all their Silver thread (from 1635 to 1640.) ſix ounces Silver at the leaſt to three ounces of Silk to all Needle-work, and five ounces Silver to three ounces of Silk for the ſleighteſt ſilver Thread; and any ſilver Thread that was under this ſize and proportion of Silver and Silk, the ſaid *Thomas Violet* was authorized to burn it or deface it, which many times when hee found it hee did deface it. And this made ſome of the Wyer-drawers angrie with him, whereas it was their own faults to work ſleight ſilver and to come within his danger; *Thomas Violet* did but his duty to deface their courſe and ſleight ſilver Thread.

But this wee can affirm, during the time *Tho. Violet* had the Office, hee cauſed all the Silver Thread to bee made of good Silver; and there was never (for the generalitie)

ſo

ſo good Silver Thread made for the uſe of the Nation before *Mr Violet*'s Regulation, or ſince, as was during all the time hee had the Regulation by his Office. If *Tho. Violet* were impowered to make his Searches at this day, (as hee did formerly) hee would (no doubt) finde manie Thouſand Pounds of courſ Silver Thread in *London*, and Silver Thread which is as bad as courſ Silver.

wee pray yonr Honors to mark what wee ſay. whereas (by a juſt Regulation) ſix ounces of ſilver and three ounces of true died ſilk is the true proportion for the juſt making of ſilver thread: There is now (ſince all this Manufacture is run into diſorder, and made without a Rule) Gold and Silver ſpun upon heavie died ſilk, and ordinarily Gold and Silver thread made, three ounces Silver to ſix ounces Silk, and Four Ounces Silver to Five Ounces Silk.

And this Silver ſo unjuſtly wrought and ſpun, to the deceipt of the Wearers, is made and mixed in their Silver Laces, and other manufactures, and ſold to the Wearers by the ounce for good Silver thread, whereby the Wearers are cozened half in half; and of this ſort of Silver thread there is ſold in Silkmens ſhops many thouſand pounds a year; and this Silver thread made upon the Wheels ſo ſlight and thin the Silver is ſpun, that it will not abide on the ſilk during the weaving and making the Lace, and the Tailors will declare to you, while they are ſoing the Lace on the Garment the Silver will ſhed and fall off the Silk, and when it comes to the weather, a Fogg or Rain, the wet gets into the Silk, and then the Silk ſwells and breaks the ſilver (the Plate being ſo thinly made that it flies off; and when it is dirtie, rub the Lace and you will leav nothing but ſilk: This, all that wear it, can tell you. And in this manner is many 1000 pounds a year Bruiſed, Cracked, and rubbed away: whereas, if the Silver was all juſtlie and trulie made with a due plait, and a due proportion of ſilver and Silk, the Lace would laſte as long again, the Silver Lace would make as

much again as it now doth; and Twenty thouſand pounds a year in Silver would return to the melting Pot which by this ſlight making is bruſhed off, and waſted, and comes to bee blown in the dirt. The Goldſmiths can tell you gold and ſilver Lace juſtly made, will make you three ſhillings the ounce, and three ſhillings and ſixpence the ounce to burn; your ſlight Wheel-work will not make above one ſhilling or eighteen pence an ounce.

The Wyerdrawers and Refiners have good reaſon to crie Tho. Violet *down to the Parlament and Counſel of State; for they know hee will hold their noſes to the grindſtone (as hee did formerly) and make them to make good work, if hee bee reſtored to his Office which hee formerly had. The Refiner hee will have an eie on, that hee melt not, nor cauſ to be melted any of the currant Coins or Plate of the Nation, but onely Forrain Bullion imported for this Manufacture; and this was ſtrictly looked to whileſt* Tho. Violet *had his Office; and the Refiners by their Indenture with the King Covenanted to do ſo, and not to melt the currant Coin or Plate of the Nation for any of thoſe Manufactures.*

The Wyerdrawers will do any thing rather then to bee tied up to have their Silver Thread ſealed. They know, then they muſt work it all good ſilver, and a due proportion of ſilver to a due proportion of true died ſilk It is not the Fee that they are to pay is that that ſticks with them, for that is a trifle in comparison; it is, they ſhall bee conſtraind to make all good Silver Thread with a due proportion of ſilver: this is the Yoke they would fain fling off themſelves.

And if your Honors do not hold them to this, to Seal their ſilver on Scanes, they will cheat the Nation as much as ever they did. The Wyerdrawers (in the Twentieth year of King James *had a Corporation, their* Charter *was to puniſh offenders, ſuppreſs underhand Workers, and all irregular perſons whatſoever: And this* Charter *was granted with ample Power unto the Governors, Aſſiſtants, and Commonaltie to make Warrants under the Common Seal of the Governor, unto all ſuch perſons as they ſhould think fit: and they did depute and authorize one* Henry Crompton, *amongſt many others, (the Thirtieth of* July, 16.3. *(to enter any Houſ, Shop,*

Shop, Seller, Warehouſ, Ship or ſhips within England *and* Wales, *and to ſearch and Aſſay all ſilver and gold Thread &c. that ſhould bee wrought by any perſon or perſons not being free of the ſaid Company and allowed to work as aforeſaid: and to ſeize all baſe and counterfeit courſ Silver Thread, and carry away the ſame, and to detain and keep it as forfeited to the uſe of the King. All theſe Powers they had granted them: but for want of appointing a Sworn Officer to ſee the Governer Aſſiſtants and Commonalty do their dutie; and to puniſh Offenders impartially.*

Upon the examination of the ſeverall miſcarriages and frauds in the Execution of that Power, the whole Proceedings was damned in Parlament, *as a power that was ill and Illegally managed, under ſpecious pretences of their Reformation of Abuſes, they got to bee in a capacitie to cozen the State* cùm Privilegio: *And there was an end of this* Charter.

The Proceedings of all the miſcariages of the Governors and Aſſiſtants of the Refiners and Wyerdrawers was at large Painted out in Parlament, *as tending onely to get a Licence for ſome particular men to Cozen the Commonwealth, and all others to bee puniſhed.*

My Lord Cook *told the Refiners and Wyerdrawers,* Whete the Conſtable is the theif, it is to little purpoſe to make a hue and crie: *Therefore if ever you would ſettle this Manufacture, put a ſure Officer to ſee the Companie of Refiners and Wyerdrawers to do their Dutie, and to make good Gold and Silver Wyer and Thread juſtly and truely; as was formerly when* Tho. Violet *had his Office. The Refiners and Wyerdrawers are angry with him onely becauſ hee executed his place ſtrictly, and would not let them Cozen the Commonwealth as they had formerly done.*

This and much more was ſaid at the old Counſel of Trade by ſome of the Women-Spinners, Goldmiths, and other perſons, uppon ſeveral Meetings and Diſputes about the Regulation of this Manufacture: And the Counſell of Trade had almoſt drawn the Model of a juſt Regulation for the preventing the Abuſes: But their Commiſſion was Determined juſt as they were upon finiſhing the Regula-

tion: And the whole proceeding in this buſineſs was by them tranſmitted to the Counſel of State.

Here followeth a Certificate *againſt the* VVheels.

WEE whoſe names are here underwriten, being Silkweavers, and other Traders in Gold and Silver Thread do certifie to this Honorable Councel of Trade, and to all people whom it may concern; The way of Spinning gold and ſilver thread by the Women-ſpinners with the Chear and Spindle, is farr more ſerviceable and better made by the Women-ſpinners then by the Wheels for the benefit and ſervice of the Commonwealth: And the Wheels and Engins for ſpinning gold and ſilver thread have greatly damnified the Women-ſpinners; whereby many hundred Spinſters for want of work have and will daily fall into great miſerie and Povertie, if there bee not ſome good Order taken for the ſuppreſſing the Wheels.

This Certificate *is Signed by the hands of above an Hundred Weavers, Silkmen, Goldſmiths, Embroiderers, and Bonelace makers: And was humbly preſented to the* Counſel of Trade *in the Year* 1650.

There are divers of the workmen Wyerdrawers that have been with mee ſince the Workmaſters preſented the Draught of their deſired Corporation, and told mee, that the Maſter-wyerdrawers have (in the Draught of their Corporation which they delivered unto the Counſel of

Trade

Trade in *Auguſt* laſt, 1656. omitted divers particular Rules which conduced very much to the well ordering of the Trade and manufactures; and have inſerted particular Rules onely conducing to their own private ends (being Maſter-wyerdrawers) and not for the generall good either of the workmen of the Trade, or of the Commonwealth.

The workmen deſire that the workmaſters of this manufacture may bee reſtrained, and for the future may not (as they do) force the workmen (for their private gain) to make their work ſleightly and adulterate: *That there may bee a ſworn Surveyer and Aſſayer appointed; one that is neither Workmaſter nor workman, but an indifferent conſcionable man between them both*; that may Survey and Aſſay all work made, and to bee made; and may ſet Rules and Orders between the workmaſters & workmen; that ſo the workmaſters may not cauſ the workmen to make baſe, ſleight and adulterate work, for the workmaſters private gain.

And that the Workmen may not bee ſo beaten down in their Prices, that they cannot make a livelihood; that the Surveyor may appoint the Aſſaymaſter, who may trie and make Aſſayes of all work made into Silver and Gold thread, wyer, Purles, Spangles, &c. that ſo the manufacture may bee made of fine ſilver, not under Starling, but as much better as every Trader pleaſeth.

That *Tho. Violet* (who was formerlie imployed in the Regulation of this Manufacture, and knoweth the way of diſcovering all theſe Frauds and Deceits in the making and working of this manufacture) may bee Surveyor and Searcher to ſeiz on all courſ and adulterate ſilver, in wyer and thread &c. and for all ſleight work: And that your Honors ſet Rules and Orders for the puniſhing the offenders; and that all gold and ſilver Wyer &c. may bee well and juſtlie made: And that *Tho. Violet* may have ſuch a Fee allowed him for his ſervice and pains taken therein, as may ſupport his Charges, and recompence him for his ſervice, care, and pains to bee taken therein, and for his warranting to the Nation that all the ſilver ſhall be juſtly made,

and that ſtrict penalties, ſhould bee put and laid uppon all work-maſters, that give their workmen cours adulterate Silver to work, to draw Gold or Silver wyer, and that all workmaſters bee forbidden to cauſ the workmen, to draw their ſilver to ſuch extraordinary ſizes for ſlightneſs, that when it is twiſted on the Silk it is ſo thin, it cannot bee made ſerviſable to the wearers, but with the wind or Rain, drops of the wearers Garments; *I wiſhed theſe men to put to their hands to theis laſt aforeſaid propoſals, which for the preſent they refuſed, telling mee, I knew theſe things to bee true, aſwell as themſelves; The reaſon why for the preſent they would not ſet to their hands, was, They would ſee firſt, whether there was an Intention, of the Parlament, or Counſell for Trade, really to reform theſe abuſes, and to ſee good Silver lace, ſpangles &c. ſhould bee wrought and made in the Nation, and to puniſh ſtrictly the offendors; when they were once aſſured of that, they would diſcover the whole bottom of the workmaſters knavery and oppreſſion, and how many of them deceiv the Common wealth; But if they ſhould bee ſeen to diſcover theſe abuſes, before they were aſſured the Parlament would reform them, by their diſcovery, they ſhould bee undon; for ſom of their workmaſters would bee ſtarke mad with them; And that ſom of them have been threatned by their work maſters (the maſter-wyer-drawers) never to bee ſet on work by any of the maſter-wyer-drawers, if ever they petition againſt, or diſcover any the frauds of their workmaſters, in theſe Manufactures.*

The like tyranous threatning, many of the Maſter wyer drawers, have uſed to the women ſpinners to terriſie them from ſpeaking the trueth: So that many of theſe workemen to the maſter wyer-drawers, and alſo the women ſpyners of gold and ſilver thread, are in a ſad condition every way; They muſt worke cours deceipfull gold and ſilver thread and wyer, and muſt not, nor dare diſcover it, uppon pain of being undon, by ſom of their cruell Work maſters Som of them with teats in their eys have told mee, they were forced to worke their Work Maſters, cours and de-

ceiptfull

ceiptfull ſilver wyer and thread, (contrary to their conſent) to get bread; And that their Maſters have ſo peſtred the trade formerly, with taking a multitude of apprentices, for private and preſent gain, that now, not one half of the Journiemen, can get work to put bread in their heads: That the Journymen, ſtand in more aw (many of them) and fear, to diſpleaſ their Workmaſters, then their apprentices doe; And this is the true reaſon, ſo much bad ſleight ſilver thread is made.

If one man will not work at, ſuch ſizes, and ſuch price (that the Silver ſhall run ſuch a length, that many of the Workmen even dravv their eyes out of their heads;) So that vvhen the Silver com's to bee put on theSilke, it is in a manner, as thin as a gilt on a bay leaf, the vvind vvil blovv the Silver avvay of the ſilk: and then the vvheele-men and hand ſpinners, muſt agree vvith ſom of theſe vvorkmaſters, as the Silkmen did vvith the Dyers, they muſt make one pound of ravv Silk, vveigh, tvvo pound, vvhen it com's from dying; ſo the Maſter vvyer-dravvers vvill, and at this day do, force many of their Worke-men to make Silver, three ounces Silver to cover ſix ounces of ſilk, and fovr ounces ſilver to cover five ounces of Silke, and this is ſold for good ſilver thread by the Maſter vvyer dravvers and Silkemen, ſo that the vvearers are Cozened many times half in half, And this makes Knaves againſt a regulation, For they can get more by ſelling ten pounds vvorth of this ſleight and deceitfull Silver Lace, then they can do by ſelling fourty pounds vvorth of good ſilver Lace: this is the true reaſon, vvherefore they vvould have no Sealer, but vvould have the Regulation of this buſineſs left amongſt the Refiners and Wyer-dravvers themſelvs.

This is the Subſtance of the Women ſpynoers, and many of the Journymen vvyer-dravvers deſires, at this day, vvhich they vvould give under their hands, and proſecute it, by hundreds, if they vvere aſſured your Highneſs and the Parlament vvould appoint a ſtrict Regulation of theſe

abuſes in their Trade; They will attend the Counſell of Trade and humbly preſent their deſires concerning all the premiſes.

My moſt humble Petition to your Highneſs and the Parlament is, For the ſpeedy paſsing the Act againſt Tranſporters of Gold *and* Silver, *& againſt the Cullers, and melters down of the heavy Coyns of this Nation, and ſuch as buy* Gold *or* Silver *above the price of the Mynt.*

THis Act was in Mr *Auguſtin Garlands*, hands in 1652. (a member of the long Parlament) and was recomended to the Parlament, by the Counſell of State, and was drawn up by a Committee of the Counſell of State for the mint, in 1651. for the appointing of Commiſsioners, who ſhould make ſtrickt enquirie after the abuſes of tranſporting Gold and Silver, And then there was an endeavor (by ſom of the Tranſporters of Gold and Silver and of ſuch as unlawfully bought, ſould, exchanged, or melted down, any of the currant coyns of England, or of any Gold or Silver bulloin) to have it paſſed by & with a generall Pardon The Committee for the mint taking Eſpeciall notice, of the greate miſcheifs, that have hapned to the Nation by the ſaid abuſes. when the general pardon was drawing up they made this order to prevent the Offendors eſcaping their due puniſhment. *viz.*

At Whitehall, *Jan.* 24. 1651.

Mr *Attorney Generall*,

At a Committee of the Counſell of State for the Mint, this incloſed

incloſed exception, was preſented to the Committee, to have it inſerted in the Generall pardon, The Committee do hold fit, for the benefit of the Commonwealth, to have this exception inſerted in the Pardon, and do recommend it to you accordingly. *viz.*

Except all offences, don, and committed by any perſon, whatſoever, in tranſporting out of England any gold or ſilver, in Coyn, or Bullion, without licence; and all other offences in the unlawfull buying, ſelling, exchanging, and melting down of any the currant ſilver moneys or Bullion againſt whom or for which any information is now depending in the Court of Exchequer at *Weſtminſter*.

Ordered that Mr **Thomas Violet** *attend Maſter Attourney General with this order of the Committee, and alſo the Committee of Parlament for drawing the General pardon to have theſe offences excepted.*

James Harrington,
Herbert Morley,

I did attend the Committee of Parlament and Maſter Attourney General with this aboveſaid order, and they did inſert the exception in the General pardon, and ſo none of theſe offenders are pardoned: the offenders are liable to the Law at this day.

At the Committee at Whitehall *Auguſt* 16. 1649.

Ordered that a Committee bee appointed to take into conſideration, the buſineſs of the Coyn and the Par between us and other Nations, and how the coyn of this nation may bee kept from being carried out, and likewiſe to conſider of ſom means Whereby the Mint may bee ſet on

work, and they are to ſpeak with any perſons they think good about it.

December 20. 1649.

THe Committees names Lord *Preſident Bradſhaw*, Sir *James Harrington*, Sir *Gilbert Pickering* Sir *William Conſtable*, Mr *Scot*, Mr *Bond*, *Collonel Purefoy*, *Collonel Joanes*, Mr *Thomas Challoner*, Sir *Henry Mildemay*, *Collonel Morley*, Mr *Allen*, Mr *Darley*, Mr *Cornelius Holland*, *Mr Nevil*, or any two of them, Sir *James Harrington* had the Chaire for this Committee, hee writes to mee this Letter, *viz.*

SIR!

BEeing informed of your abillity and readineſs to make tender of ſuch propoſals as may bee for the ſervice of the Commonwealth, I thought fit to deſire you that I may ſpeak with you to morrow in the afternoon, being Tueſday about two a Clock, at which time you ſhall finde mee at my lodgings in the Stone Gallery in Whitehall.

12 *Jan.* 1649.

Your loving friend

For Mr *Thomas Violet* theſe.

James Harrington.

And at the deſire of Sir *James Harrington* and Mr *Thomas Challoner*, and others of the Honorable Committee, for the *Mint* I did write to Holland for all the principal Coynes in Chriſtendom, and did deliver many of them to the offi-

cers

cers of the *Mint* to make an aſſay of them, which ſeveral pieces of forrain gold and ſilver were aſſayed in the Preſence of the Commitee of the *Mint*, they being there at the *Tower* ſeveral dayes to make theſe Trials, where I attended them, and I ſent into *Holland France* and *Flanders*, for all their ſeveral Placarts, and did procure the Lawes and Ordinances for regulating their reſpective mints, with the ſeveral ſtandards and weighits for their Coyns, gold or ſilver to be tranſlated, and thereupon the Commitee of the *Mint* cauſed the principall of theſe forrain Coynes to bee ingraven with their weight and finenes of every piece, according to the ſtandard of each mint, both gold and ſilver, what it ought to weigh, with a juſt Calculation of the vallue what all the ſeveral *Species* would make in the Tower of *London*, and the penny weight, and graines that everie ſuch forrain *Specie* or Coyn would make in the Tower of *London*, and what proportion our gold and ſilver held with the mints of *Flanders France and Holland*: and this was exactly calculated by the officers of the *Mint* and my ſelf, in the years 1651 and 1552, and all the proceedings thereupon. After many moneths time, and the ſeveral Coynes, graven in Copper Plates, were delivered into the cuſtody of Sir *James Harrington*, the chairman of that committee, to report them unto the Houſ, but the Parlament being diſſolved 20 *April*. 1653. the Act againſt the Tranſporters of Gold, and all the Proceedings concerning the regulation of the mint was ſtopped for that time. There had been ſeverall Agitations concerning this Act in the houſ manie times in Parlament *viz.* 18. *March* 1640. The buſineſs of the examination of the tranſporting Goldand Silver referred to the Committee, that was appointed to conſider of the ſtate of the Kings Army, and *Thomas Violet* appointed by that order of Parlament to proſecute this buſineſs.

An order of Parlament 1 September. 1647. *That the Committee of the navie conſider of ſom effectual courſ to prevent the Tranſportatim of Bullion, and to report what they have don,*

to the houſ. The Committee of the Navy, 2. September 1647. direct their order to the Commiſsioners and officers of the Cuſtoms and particularly to Mr Edward Watkins, then head Searcher, and they were all deſired to conſider of ſom courſ to prevent the Tranſportation of Bullion out of the nation. In October 1647. All the Commiſsioners with the chief officers of the Cuſtom-houſe ſet down ſeveral waies for the prevention of the Tranſporting of Gold and Silver, which the Marchants by all ſecret means do daily Tranſport. The Committee of the Navy by their order of the third of Dec. 1647. directed their order to the officers of the Mint, to certifie their opinions, what waies & courſes were to bee taken for preventing the Tranſporting of Gold & Silver out of the nation. The officers of the Mint, after great conſultation and conſideration, having taken good advice; (ſom of them having had long experience viz. Mr Palmer and Mr Cogan were the fitter to give advice) firſt the officers of the Mint upon their certificate deſire that all the Tranſporters of Gold and Silver, and ſuch as have melted down the currant Coyn of the nation, may bee brought to juſtice to Deterr others from acting the like abuſes for the future. Secondly, that according to the preſident of the ſtatute of 14 Richard 2. Cap. 12. A Commiſsion bee granted to make enquirie through the nation after all ſuch as had conveyed the moneys of England out of the nation, and of all ſuch as culd out and melted the heavy currant money, 4 Hen. 4. Cap. 10. the ſixth of Edward 6. Cap. 19. Touching the exchange of Gold and ſilver to bee put in execution, that whoſoever gives more for Gold or Silver then it is or ſhall bee declared, ſhall make fine at pleaſure of the State, To conclude they ſay in their Certificate, that the Mint cannot bee imployed, nor the Tranſporting treaſure ſtopped, if ſom courſ were not ſpeedily taken to diſcover theſe great abuſes, and already all the Gold is Tranſported out of the nation, and the Silver followeth apace, and this is the Certificate of all the chief officers of the Mint. 3. December. 1647.

About November 1647. The Citizens of London petitioned the Parlament againſt the Tranſporters, of Gold and Silver

Silver, ſhewing the great miſchiefs that came to the City thereby.

The 18 of *Auguſt*, 1649. The Counſell of State ordered, that a Committee ſhould bee appointed, to take into their conſiderations, the buſineſs of the Coyn, and the Par between this and other Nations: and that there bee care taken, that the Coyn of this Nation may bee kept from carrying away out of the Nation; And to conſider of ſom means how the Mint may bee ſet on work. In purſuance of this laſt Order, the then Counſell of State did give order for the draught of an Act, which was drawn by order of the Committee for the Mint, And I *Thomas Violet* was required by the Counſell of State to attend this buſineſs, And upon ſeverall meetings and debates, of ſeverall Honorable members of the then Counſell of State; The draught of an act of Parlament againſt tranſporters of Gold and Silver was finiſhed, and left by order of Parlament in Mr. *Auguſtin Garlands* cuſtody; and the ſaid Act was twice read in the Houſ, & about the 12 of *Aprill* 1653. following called for again, and apointed to bee finiſhed; as apears by the Journals of the Houſ: But other mighty buſineſs did intervene.

May it pleaſ Your Highneſs! It was eaſily to bee diſcerned that ſom guilty Marchants, who had been guilty of Tranſporting of Gold had hindered this Act from paſſing; and I know all the Members in that Parlament were not free from tranſporting gold and ſilver, and that made ſome of them ſay, as long as they ſat within the Parlament wall, that Act, againſt tranſporting gold, culling the *Engliſh* coyns or buying of gold and ſilver, contrary to the law, ſhould never paſs the houſ.

Former Ages have made tranſporting gold and ſilver Fellony, as appears by ſeverall Statutes; And all ſuch as

Cull and melt the currant Coyns of the Nation, to forfeit treble the value, of the monies, they have melted or cauſed to bee melted: And by the Statute of 6 *Ed.* 6. cap. 19. who ſoever gives more for Gold or Silver, then it is or ſhall bee declared by the Kings Procamation to be currant for within this his Highneſs Realm; that all the ſaid coyned monies gold or ſilver, ſo exchanged & every part and parcel thereof ſhall be forfit, and the parties ſo offending, ſhall ſuffer Impriſonment, by the ſpace of one year, and make fine at the Kings Pleaſure.

I have for theſe many years, preſſed for an act of Parlament to bee made according to the Statute of 14. *Rich.* 2. cap 12. for Comiſſions, to go through the Nation, to enquire of ſuch as have conveyed the gold and ſilver, out of England, to the prejudice and damage of the Nation. 9. *Ed.* 3. cap. 3. 17. *Rich.* 2. cap. 1. 2. *H.* 4. cap. 4. 4. *H.* 4. cap. 10. 9. *H.* 5. cap. 1. 2. *H.* 6. cap. 6. 4. *H.* 7. cap. 13. 1. *H.* 8. cap. 13. By all theſe aforeſaid Laws and Statutes, your Highneſs's predeceſſors endeavored ſtrickly to looke to the preſervation of the Coyns of the Nation.

May it pleaſe your *Highneſs*,

THere was about twenty milions of gold and ſilver, coyned in the Tower, from the year 1622. to 1645 as will appear by the Mynt books, upon a calculation (which *The Clerkes* can quickly finde out to a penny) and all this gold is already tranſported, the currant ſilver coyns all culled and the heavieſt tranſported or melted to make gold and ſilver lace, and that monies which remains is clipped and light. And theſe miſcheifs have been acted by perticuler perſons and will every day increaſ, without ſome ſpeedy and timely remedy bee had, to find out the Offendors.

The currant Silver coyns of the Nation have been greatly ſpent, in making the manufacture of gold and ſilver wyer, thread &c.

thread &c. formerly in the yeats, from 1624, to 1630. There beeing then a war with Spain, Starling ſilver was ſold, by the Goldſmiths for five ſhilling and three pence and five ſhilling and four pence, the ounce, Now the money in the Tower is coyned at five and a pence, So that all but the clipped and verie light mony was melted down, to make plate and gold and Silver wyer and thread. And this was known to bee the generall practice, of almoſt all the Goldſmiths and Refiners in London. I moſt humbly ſay There is never an honeſt Goldſmith in London, that will have the face to deny this to bee a trueth, Silver was then ſo ſcarce that in payment of a thouſand pounds you ſhould receiv nine hundred pounds in gold, and then in 1629. men were troubled to get ſilver monie for gold, Silver was ſo ſcarce: The East India company bought up in thoſe years, Spaniſh monie and dollers and gave four ſhilling 10 pence a peice for them, which is five pence in a peice of Eight more then they will make in the Mint.

Now your Highnes hath a warr with Spain the fountain of Silver is diverted for the preſent, ſo that ſilver riſeth, and ſo conſequently the Goldſmith weighs and culls all the Silver, that paſſeth through his hands, And as the market riſeth ſo doth the Goldſmith lighten his plummet, or weight hee culls the Mony of the Nation with, till at laſt they will cull and melt it all up.

Som Goldſmiths in Lumbert ſtreet, (contrary to the law) have bought and ſold Milions of Gold till now at laſt, they have bought & ſould all the Gold out of the Nation, and the currant Silver coyn of this Nation, is following after a great pace, and will ſtil follow except a ſtrict Law bee made to diſcover the offendors, and bring them to ſevere juſtice to deterr others, there will be no mony left in the Nation. neither gold nor ſilver. The ſad effects of ſuch a miſcheif is not ſuddenly apprehended, for no great action can be don without monie; And the long Parlament though they could not then agree, for the paſsing of an act againſt the Tranſporters of Gold and Silver, yet they excepted all ſuch as tranſported Gold or

Silver, or culled or melted the currant coyns, or bought or ſold gold and ſilver, contrary to the Laws and ſtatutes of the Nation from the generall Pardon. A Commiſsion to enquire and find out the offendors, directed to ſkillfull diſcreet perſons, and authorized by act of Parlament, according to former preſidents will bring in good ſtore of monies towards the payments of publique debts.

May it pleaſ your Highneſs (for the Regulating of Gold and Silver thread) If the Refiners and wyer drawers bee not tyed to refine all the ſilver for their manufactures, in one place, and not to melt any ſilver but what ſhall bee Imported from beyond the Seas, or ſhall proceed from burnt ſilver, Returns of their Manufacture, and this to bee duely and ſtrictly enjoyned them, and that culling and melting of the currant Silver monie of the Nation, for theſe manufactures Bee, for the future, made Fellonie ; and ſtrickt Rules and ordinances to prevent all the frauds formerly practiſed both by the Refiners and wyer-drawers, (which offences are by me moſt humbly preſented to your highneſs, & the Parlament for a redreſs and reformation) If there bee not ſuch officers and Miniſters appointed as aforeſaid, This manufacture will never bee regulated nor the frauds prevented. I do alſo implore your Highneſs Grace and Juſtice for the Reſtoring mee to my place which I had, and to have ſuch fees as formerly I Received, and I to warrant the Manufacture to bee juſtly made to the nation, or pay the damage to any that are damnified by any gold or ſilver thread ſealed in my Office. And that your Highneſs and the Parlament, will bee graciouſly pleaſed out of your Benignity favorabily to accept of theſe your loyall ſubjects Endeavors to do your Highneſs and the common wealth moſt humble and faithfull ſervice ; which ſhall for ever oblige mee dayly to proceed, and for ever to Remain your humbleſt Loyall Subject.

September 29, 1656.

Thomas Violet.